9
GOBLIN SLAYER
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

GOBLIN SLAYER!

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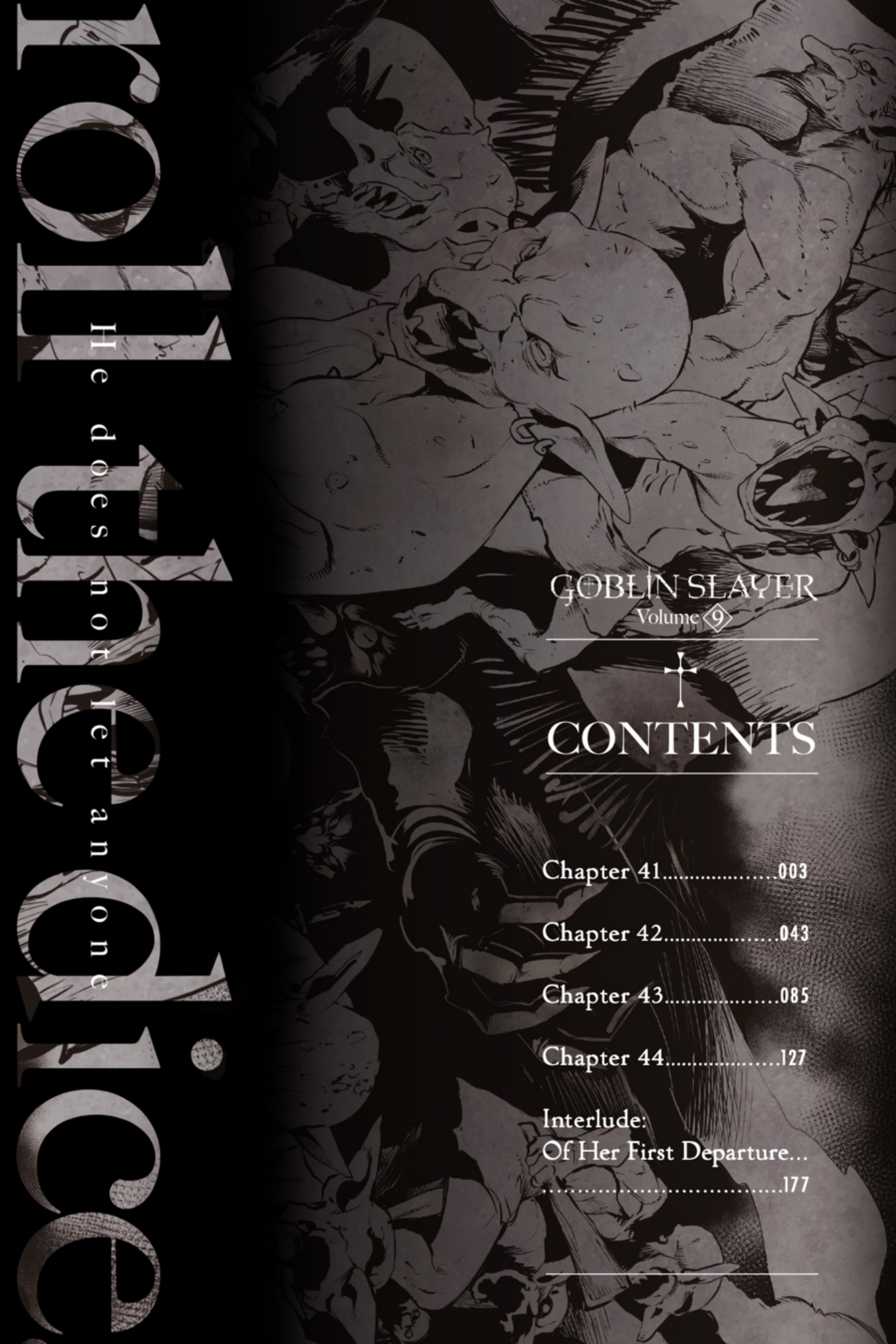
Character Design:
Noboru Kannatuki

9



GOBLIN SLAYER
Volume 9

CONTENTS

Chapter 41.....003

Chapter 42.....043

Chapter 43.....085

Chapter 44.....127

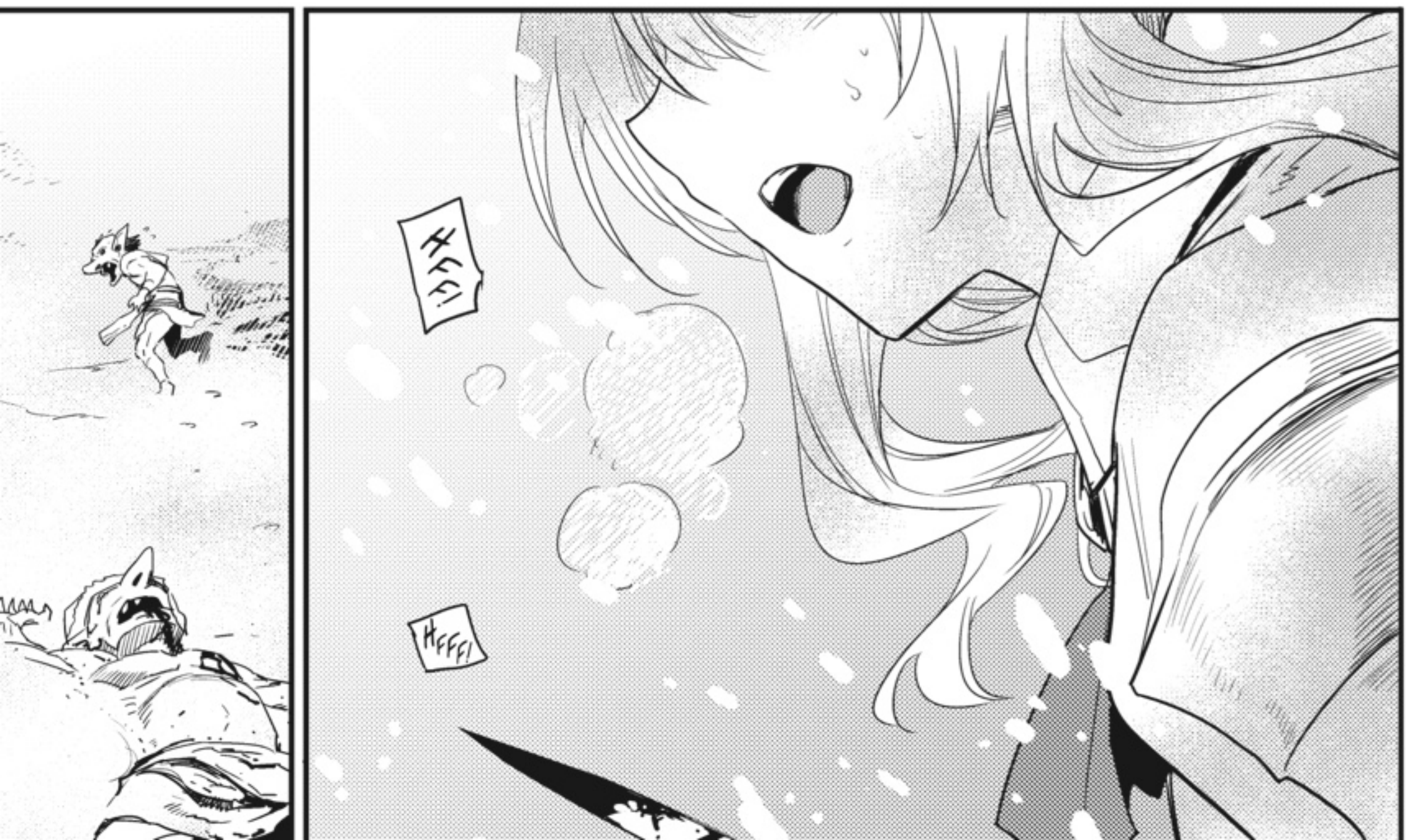
Interlude:
Of Her First Departure...
.....177

HAH!

YAH!

HYU (FWOO)

BA (SHAP)



CHAPTER 41

THEY'RE SUCH HIDEOUS, FILTHY CREATURES ...
SO PATHETIC, IT'S ALMOST FUNNY.

IT WENT THAT WAY!
YEAH, I KNOW!
YOU JUST TRY NOT TO SLIP AND FALL ON THE ICE!

WE'RE NOT HERE TO CHAT! GET TO WORK!

HEH HEH!

NICE JOB, GIRLS!

!?

DO (THOCK)

YEAH, YEAH.

HUH ...?

IT WON'T COME OUT!

GU

GU

GU (THUG)

HEH HEH!

DO

OH—

OH CRAP!

GO (SLAM)

HEY, WIZARD. WE'VE STILL GOT ONE OR TWO IN THE DISTANCE.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, LORD MONK!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR DAYDREAMING.

BUT OF COURSE!

MIGHT I TROUBLE YOU TO LEND ME A HAND?

MILADY.

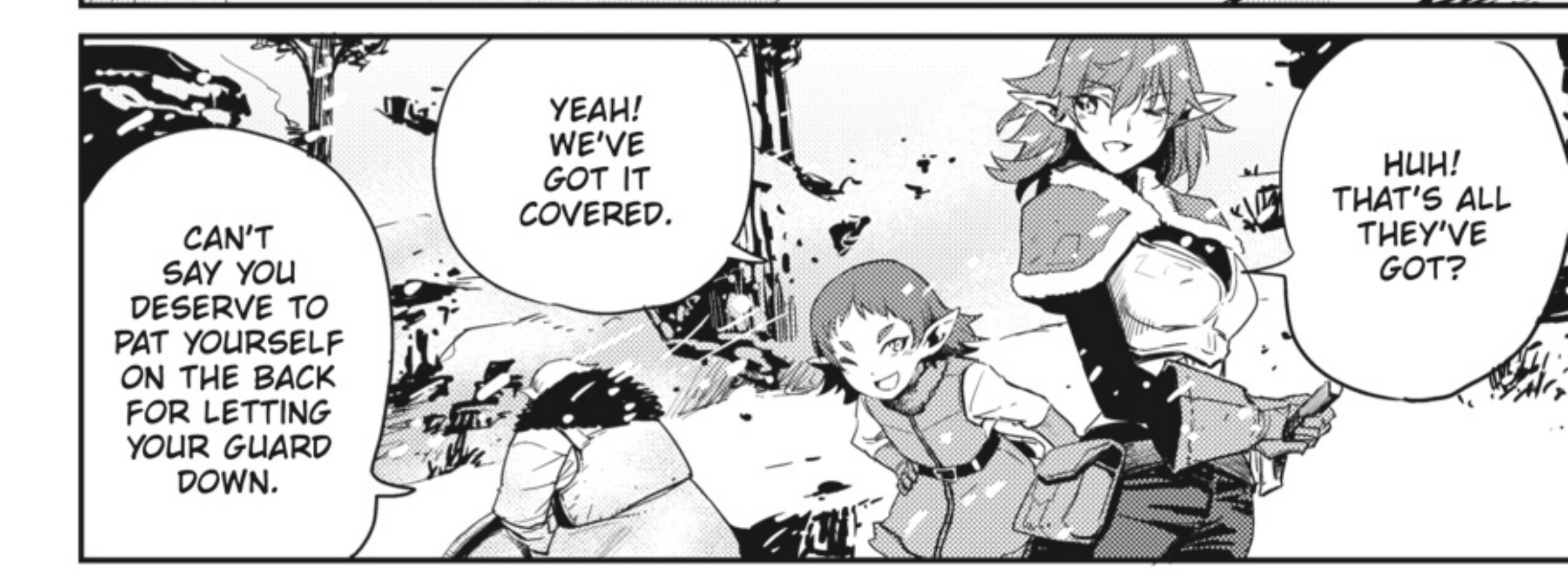
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU—AND THEM!

TONITRUS... ORIENS...

SAGITTA ...

...QUELTA...

BA (BLAM)
...RAEDIUS! STRIKE TRUE, ARROW!
...IACTA! RISE AND FALL, THUNDER!
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA


CAN'T SAY YOU DESERVE TO PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK FOR LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN.
YEAH! WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
HUH! THAT'S ALL THEY'VE GOT?

LOOK AT THIS BLIZZARD, THOUGH.
I KNOW WE HAD TO USE A COUPLE SPELLS, BUT WE DIDN'T GET SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH. I'D CALL THAT A PRETTY DECISIVE VICTORY.

THE REAL JOB— TAKING OUT THE GOBLIN NEST ON THIS MOUNTAIN— IS YET TO COME.

LET'S PRESS ON, WITH ALL POSSIBLE CARE.

WE CAN'T LET THEM BEAT US. THE VILLAGERS ARE COUNTING ON US TO PROTECT THEM FROM THESE MONSTERS.

WELL SAID, MILADY.

AND THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT A BUNCH OF CAVE-DWELLING GOBLINS.

I'VE GOT A SPECIAL PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THEM!

TEE HEE!

DEAR GOBLIN SLAYER...

...SO I MUST ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS, FOR THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO.

I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN YOU SOONER BUT WAS EMBARRASSED TO DO SO WHEN I HAD SO LITTLE TO SAY. NEITHER IS IT FAIR TO IMMEDIATELY TROUBLE YOU AGAIN...

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. I SEND YOU ALL MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.

I'M SURPRISED BUT HAPPY TO SAY THAT, AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, I HAVE HAD NO DREAMS OF GOBLINS, AND IN FACT, THINGS HAVE BEEN QUITE PEACEFUL.

I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL. THE SEASON OF SNOW SPRITES HAS COME AND THE COLD WITH IT.

A CERTAIN YOUNG NOBLEWOMAN FLED HER PARENTS' HOUSE TO BECOME AN ADVENTURER.

SHE TOOK ON A QUEST, AND NO ONE HAS HEARD FROM HER SINCE. HER PARENTS HAVE FILED A SEARCH-AND-RESCUE QUEST AT THE GUILD. AGAIN, ALL VERY ORDINARY.

IT SO HAPPENS THAT THERE IS A QUEST I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE ON. IT'S A COMMON ENOUGH STORY—

THERE IS JUST ONE THING I WISH TO NOTE—

THE QUEST THE GIRL HAD UNDERTAKEN WAS A GOBLIN-SLAYING ONE.

I PRAY FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY.

YOURS TRULY...

KNOWING YOU, I'M SURE YOU'RE QUITE BUSY (I HEARD ABOUT WHAT WENT ON AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL), BUT IF YOU SHOULD HAVE A FEW SPARE MOMENTS, MIGHT I ASK THAT YOU USE THEM TO AID AN UNFORTUNATE YOUNG WOMAN?

SHOULD WE BE LOOKING AT THIS...?

IT'S PRACTICALLY A LOVE LETTER...

MAYBE IT'S THE CHAIN MAIL I'M WEARING, BUT I REALLY FEEL CHILLY...

N-NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT, IT REALLY IS GETTING COLD, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S WHY METAL GEAR IS NO GOOD!

WHAT'S THIS? ARE ELVES TOUGHER THAN YOU THOUGHT?

"TOUGH" AND "SLOW TO CATCH COLD" AIN'T THE SAME, LASSIE.

RESIN, THAT'S THE TICKET! IT'S LIGHT, DURABLE, AND DOESN'T GET COLD LIKE METAL!

NOT SURE I COULD FEEL SAFE WEARING CLOTHING SO THIN.

MM...

...CONSIDER ME ENVIOUS OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE ENERGY TO ARGUE SO.

HEE HEE!

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...

WHAT WAS THAT!?

MPH...

MY ANCESTORS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN EQUALLY VULNERABLE TO THE COLD...

I COULD BE FACING EXTINCTION.

MM-MM...

...ARE YOU OKAY?

I FIRST LEARNED MY TRADE ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN.

...NO.

MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER, YOU SEEM QUITE WELL.

A MATTER OF TRAINING?

I WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT AGAIN EITHER.

OH-HO...

CERTAINLY NOT THE KIND OF PRACTICE I WOULD CARE TO IMITATE.

I HOPE SHE'S OKAY...

HMM...

SO BASICALLY, SHE WANTS US TO RESCUE THIS WOMAN FROM THE GOBLINS...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE QUEST?

HERE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IF SHE IS ALIVE, WE'LL RESCUE HER.

IF SHE'S DEAD, WE'LL BRING BACK PART OF HER CORPSE OR HER PERSONAL EFFECTS.

...GOTTA SAY, I'M NOT SURE "OKAY" IS A WORD THAT EVER APPLIES TO SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY GOBLINS.

WELL, TRUE...

THERE HAS GOT TO BE A NICER WAY TO PUT THAT...

THAT IS THE QUEST.

AND IN EITHER CASE, WE WILL KILL THE GOBLINS.

YER SAYIN' THEY'RE LIKE BEARS, THEN?

BURU (SHIVER) ブル

INDEED.

HMM? WOULDN'T THAT MEAN ATTACKING IN AUTUMN?

BEARS HIBERNATE IN WINTER.

BUT WHAT REASON WOULD GOBLINS HAVE FOR ATTACKING A VILLAGE IN WINTER?

WOULD IT NOT BE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR THEM TO STAY PUT IN THEIR DENS?

OH!

...THEY CAN TAKE IT ALL FOR THEMSELVES.

THIS WAY...

...IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE THE VILLAGE STORES WILL BE FULL FROM THE HARVEST.

I THINK ...

YEAH, WHAT?

GOBLINS ARE STUPID, BUT THEY ARE NOT FOOLS.

DON'T THINK IT'S JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE NASTY LITTLE BUGGERS?

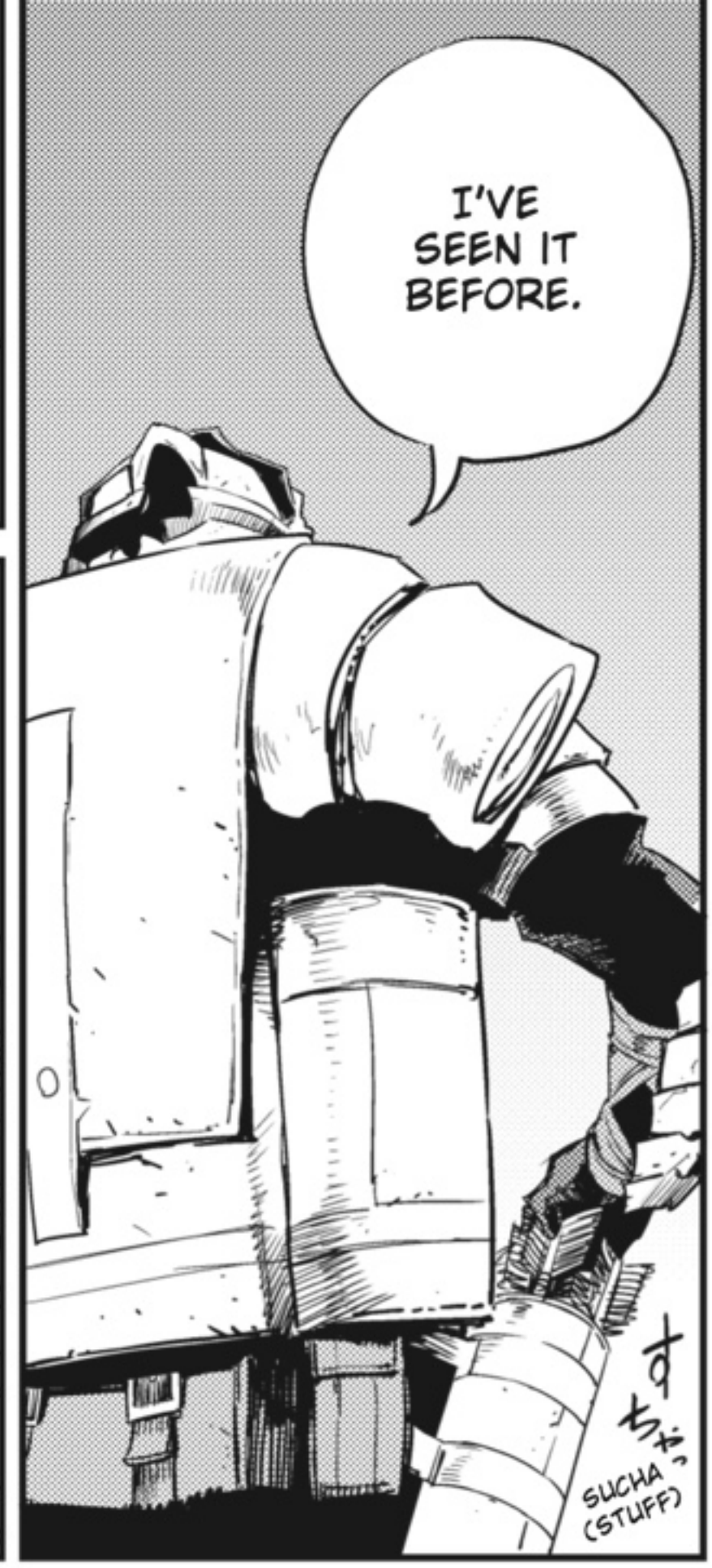
I SEE. SO EVEN GOBLINS CAN BEHAVE LOGICALLY FROM TIME TO TIME.

GU

GU (SQUEAK)

THEY THINK ONLY OF STEALING...

...BUT THEY DO APPLY THEIR INTELLIGENCE TO THEIR THEFT.


I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.
すちゃ
SUCHA (STUFF)

HYOI (WHIP)
ひょい
I SAW YOU!
ORCBOLG!
!
YOU DID SOMETHING TO THIS ARROW, DIDN'T YOU!?

!
THIS ARROWHEAD IS WOBBLING ALL OVER.
IT'S GONNA FALL OFF, YOU KNOW.

NOT TODAY.
LISTEN, YOU...

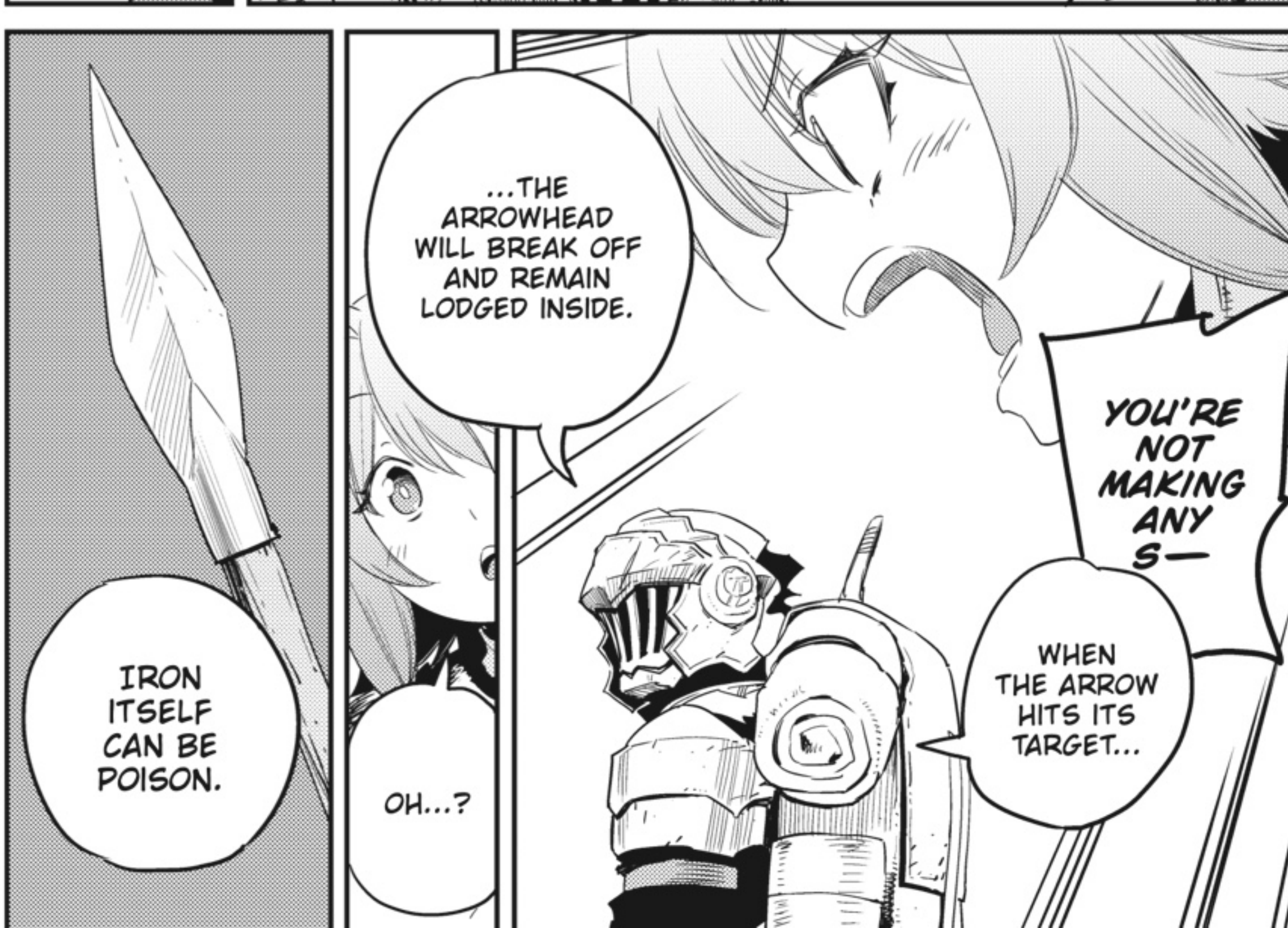
BE CAREFUL.
HUH? IT DOESN'T LOOK POISONED OR ANYTHING...

HERE, GIMME YOUR QUIVER. I'LL FIX 'EM FOR YOU!

OH, YOU!

GEEZ, ORCBOLG! YOU'RE COMPLETELY HOPELESS.

DON'T. THEY'RE FINE.



AND GOBLINS KNOW NOTHING OF MEDICINE.

FOR NOW, AT LEAST.

IF THEY GO BACK TO THEIR HOLE WITHOUT TAKING IT OUT, THEIR FLESH WILL ROT, AND SICKNESS WILL SPREAD THROUGH THAT CRAMPED, FILTHY NEST.

...BUT IT WILL BE A MAJOR BLOW.

.....

IT WON'T WIPE THEM ALL OUT...

IS IT THAT STRANGE?

ER, WELL, UH...

WELL, EXCEPT TO GOBLINS. BUT PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.

O GODDESS, HE DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM...

IF WE CAN RENDER SEVERAL OF THE GOBLINS LESS ABLE TO FIGHT, THOUGH, THAT WILL BE ENOUGH.

...WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SPARE THE TIME THIS METHOD WOULD REQUIRE.

CONSIDERING THE CHANCE THAT THE GIRL IS STILL ALIVE, HOWEVER...

ISN'T THE BEST WAY TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER TO EAT HER FIRST?

Y'THINK THE GIRL'S IN ONE PIECE, BEARD-CUTTER?

BUT... LEAVING HER ALIVE WOULD MEAN ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED.

?

WINTER IS LONG.

THEY WILL WANT SOME WAY TO PASS THE TIME.

!
GOBLINS?
A VILLAGE— FIRE, SMOKE. THE SMELL OF BURNING...
SCREAMS...
I THINK SO!

RIGHT!

DO IT.

SHOULD I PREPARE MIRACLES ...!?

HMM!

SUCH SPIRITUAL POWER IN YOUR EARTH MOTHER! IF ONLY SHE WERE A NAGA, I MIGHT BE CONVINCED TO CONVERT. NOW...

PAAA (GLOOW)

!

O EARTH MOTHER, ABOUNDING IN MERCY...

...BY THE POWER OF THE LAND GRANT SAFETY TO WE WHO ARE WEAK.

PROTEC-TION!

THE FIGHT IS OVER, AND NOW THEY ARE FOCUSED ON STEALING WHAT THEY CAN.

I CANNOT HEAR THE CLANGING OF SWORDS.

...NOT VERY GOOD, I FEAR.

HOW DOES IT LOOK TO YOU?

NO. I WILL EXPLAIN WHY LATER.

SHALL I PREPARE A DRAGONTOOTH WARRIOR?

YOU'VE GOT IT!

DON'T USE POTIONS BUT DON'T HOLD BACK WITH YOUR SPELLS.

SOUNDS GOOD.

THEN BACK US UP.

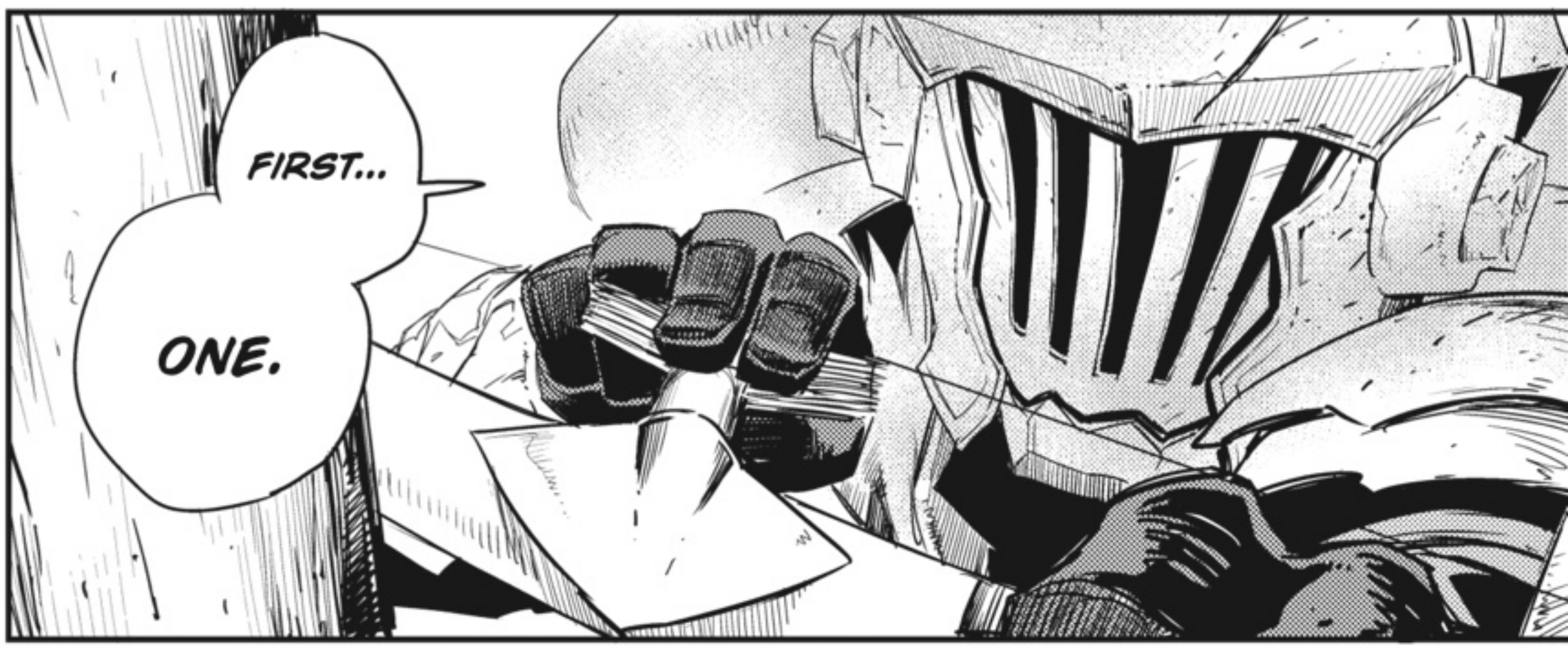
FIND HIGH GROUND AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

THAT'S OBVIOUS.

WHICH SHALL WE DO?

ATTACK THE GOBLINS OR PROTECT THE VILLAGERS?

WE'LL DO BOTH.



NOOO!

SOMEONE HELP ME!

ZURU (DRAG)

WAH!

ZBOOP!

BIG

DO

DOSA (SLUMP)

DO (THOCK)

HEY, ORCBOLG! NO FAIR STARTING EARLY!
DO
(BAM)

DON'T BE AFRAID.
AH...
...!
EEK!

I'M AN ADVENTURER.
ADVENTURERS' GUILD
CHARI (JINGLE)

JIWA (BRIM)
じわ

THE OTHERS ...

...ALL WENT TO THE VILLAGE SQUARE.

I DON'T ...

I, U-UM, I...

THERE, THERE. DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I DON'T ...

... KNOW ...

HOW MANY ARE THERE?

WHERE ARE THE GOBLINS?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER VILLAGERS?

IT'LL BE OKAY.

WE'LL RESCUE YOUR BIG SISTER. I PROMISE.

I DON'T LIKE ANY OF IT.

THE VILLAGE SQUARE ...?

I DON'T LIKE IT.

I SERVE THE GODDESS, AFTER ALL.

AND...

REALLY!

REALLY...?

...GOBLIN SLAYER HERE WOULD NEVER LOSE TO A GOBLIN.

WAIT— THERE IS DANGER.

LET'S DO IT.

THE ENEMY HASN'T NOTICED US YET.

...BUT IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP THEM BOTTLED UP IN THE SQUARE.

WE DON'T WANT ANY OF THE GOBLINS ALONG THE PERIMETER TO ESCAPE...

THE ENEMY IS REMARKABLY WELL-ORDERED FOR GOBLINS.

WE MUST NOT LET DOWN OUR GUARD.

WHY DON'T YA LET ME HANDLE THE SQUARE, THEN?

AN ATTACK DURING THE DAY SUGGESTS THERE MIGHT BE ADVANCED TYPES WITH THEM.

BUT ITS COLOR IS GOOD.

TYPICAL EQUIPMENT.

NO SIGNS OF STARVATION.

...IT DEPENDS ON THEIR NUMBERS.

IF THEY'RE ALL IN ONE PLACE, A SINGLE SPELL COULD FINISH THEM OFF.

HMM...

BUT I'D SAY THERE'S FEWER THAN TWENTY IN THE WHOLE VILLAGE!

AN ADVANCE PARTY, THEN.

I COUNT FIVE OR SIX IN THE SQUARE.

THEN I SHALL ACCOMPANY MASTER SPELL CASTER TO THE SQUARE.

I'LL BACK YOU UP TOO, DWARF!

WE SPLIT UP. SQUARE AND PERIMETER.

I PUT HER BACK WHERE HER SISTER HID HER.

I THINK SHE MANAGED TO CALM DOWN A LITTLE, SO SHE FELL RIGHT TO SLEEP.

IS THE GIRL ALL RIGHT?

YES.

I SEE.

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE.

RIGHT.

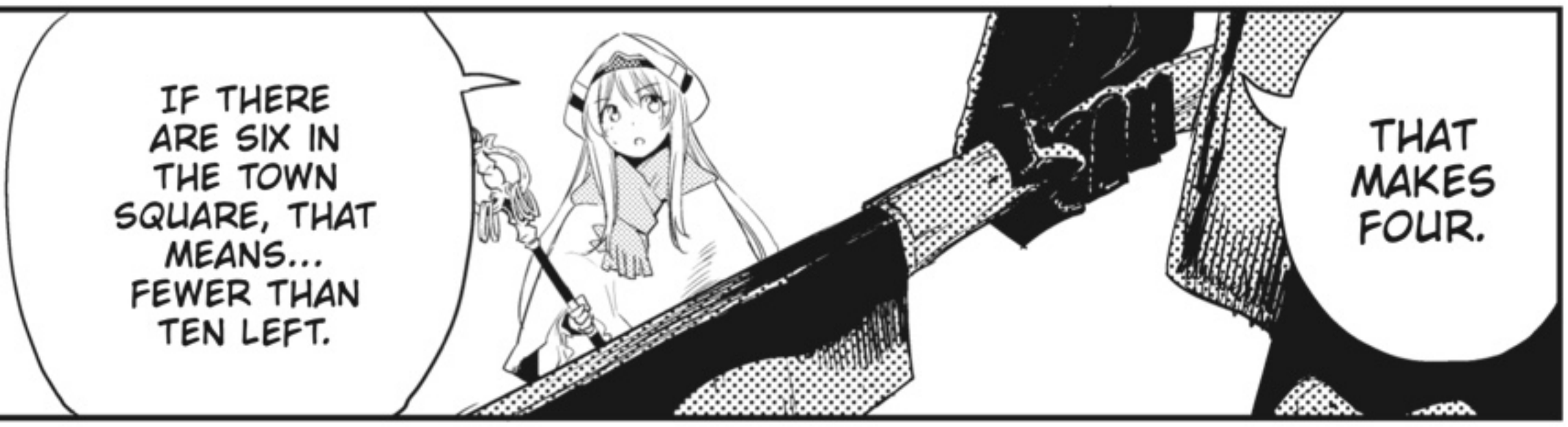
LET'S GO.

YES, SIR ...!

I'LL WATCH YOUR BACK!

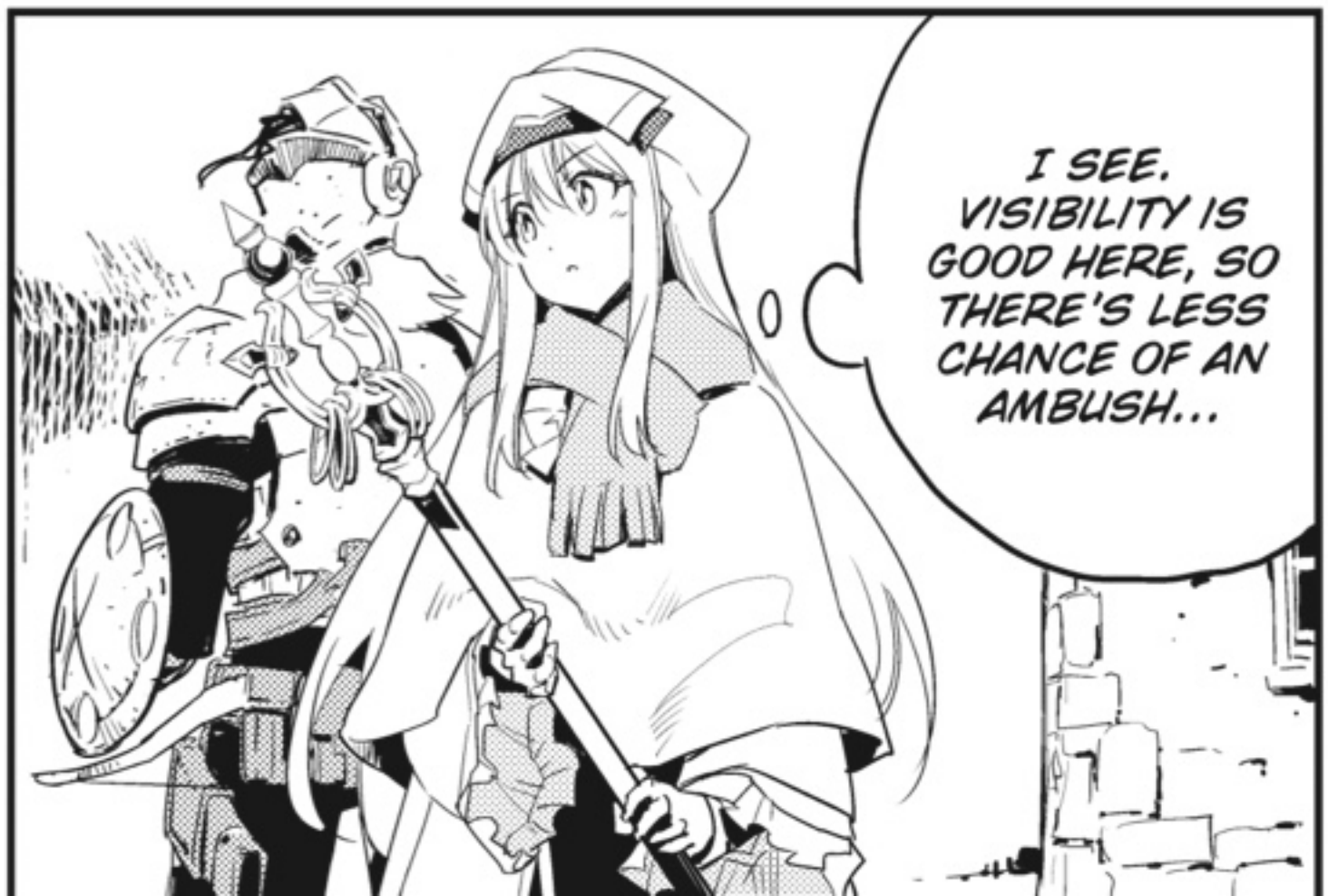
DO (THOCK)
DO
KURU (FLIP)
...IN A VILLAGE BEFORE.
I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ...
WATCH THE SHADOWS AND KEEP AN EYE OVERHEAD.
IT IS A MORE OPEN ENVIRONMENT THAN CAVE FIGHTING.

DOSA (CRASH)


IF THERE ARE SIX IN THE TOWN SQUARE, THAT MEANS... FEWER THAN TEN LEFT.
THAT MAKES FOUR.

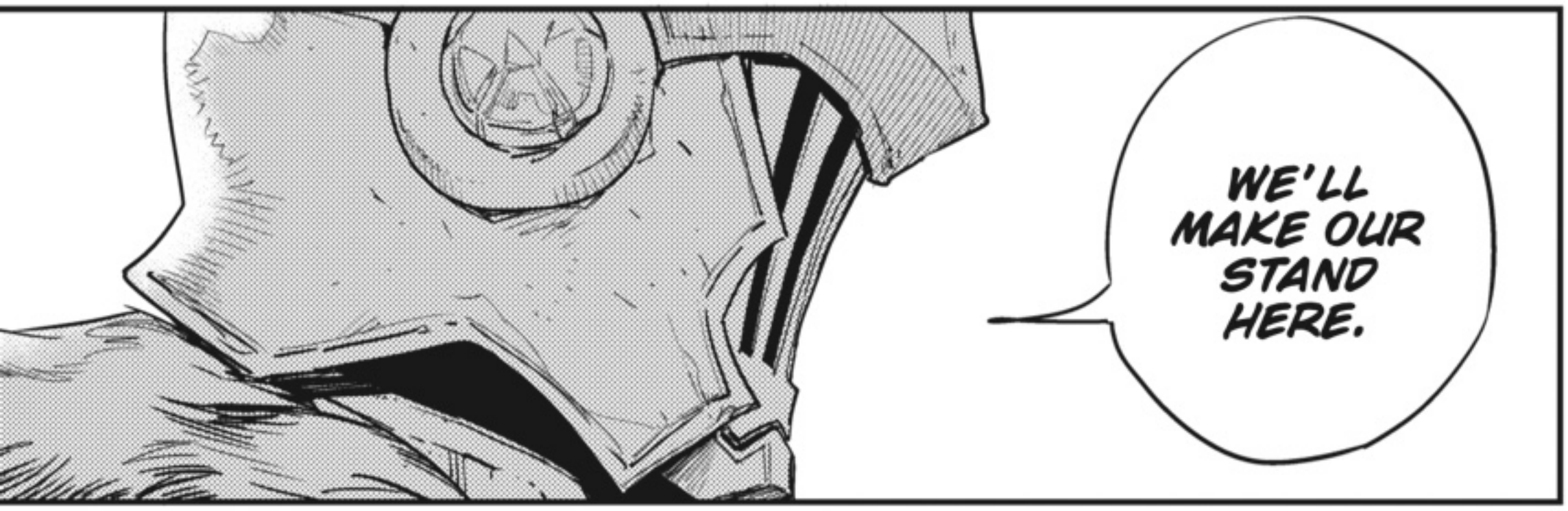
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO FIND THEM.

WE'LL ENGAGE THEM AT THE CENTER OF THAT CROSSROADS.



!!

トン…
TON
(TONK)



AND WATCH OUT FOR POISONED BLADES.

RIGHT!

OKAY.

UM...

BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU STEP.

IF YOU SLIP ON THE SNOW, YOU'LL DIE.

THAT'S NOT ACTUALLY HELPFUL.

SO WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS... JUST WATCH OUT FOR EVERYTHING, LIKE USUAL.

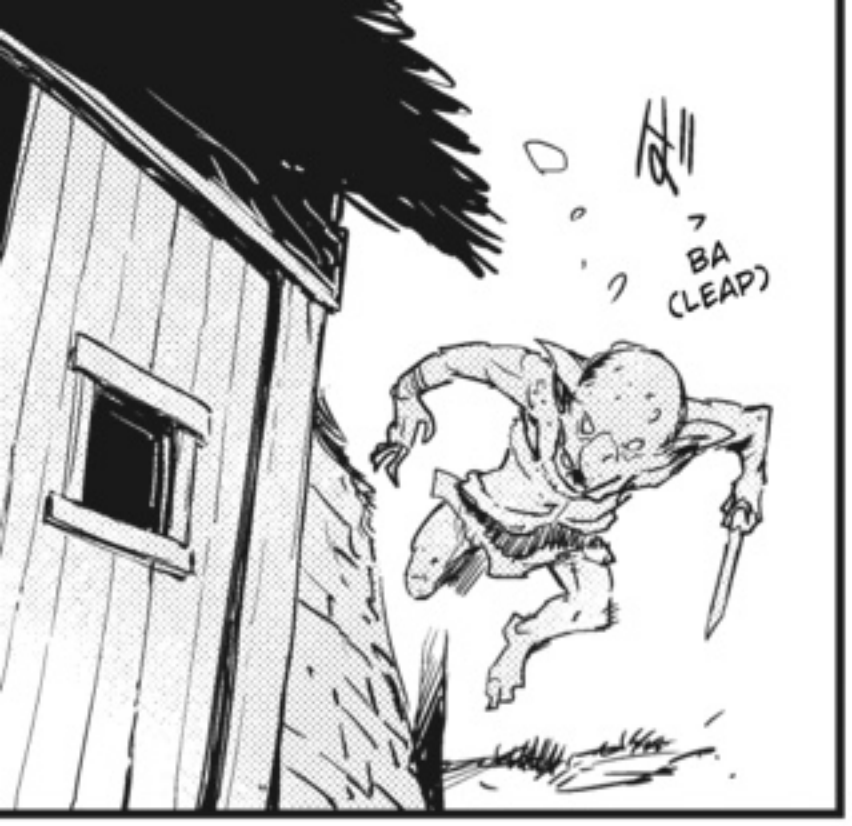
SORRY.

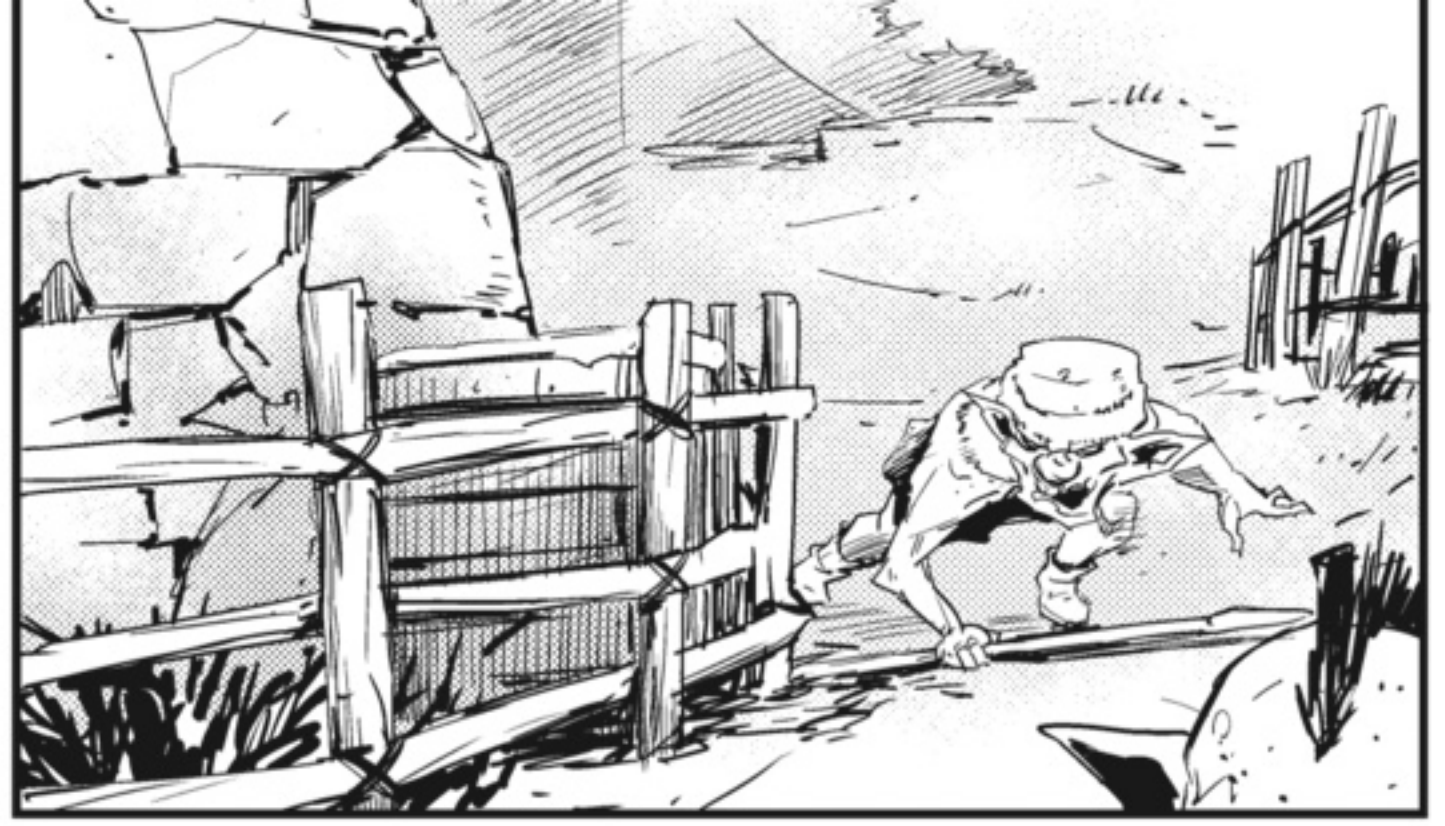
MM.

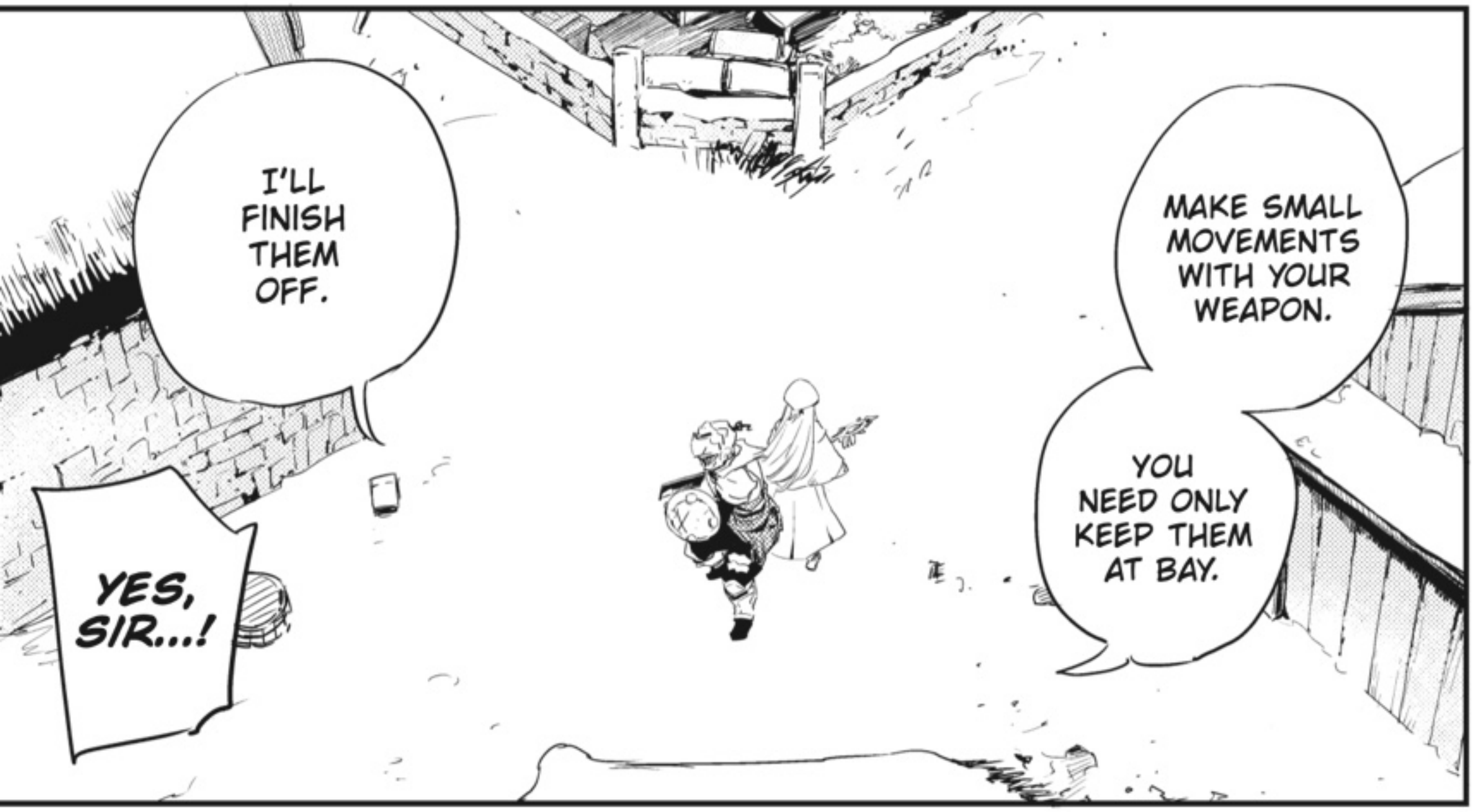
...ARE TRULY HOPELESS, AREN'T YOU?

GOSH.

YOU...


BA
(LEAP)




I'LL FINISH THEM OFF.
YES, SIR...!
MAKE SMALL MOVEMENTS WITH YOUR WEAPON.
YOU NEED ONLY KEEP THEM AT BAY.

HERE THEY COME!

HE'S TRUSTED HIS BACK TO ME.

THAT'S WHY...

...I HAVE TO PROTECT HIM!

YOU NEED ONLY KEEP THEM AT BAY.

I'LL FINISH THEM OFF.

YES, SIR...!

CHAPTER 42

GA (WHACK)
FIVE.
BARI (CRUNCH)

DO (THOCK)

SIX.

SEVEN!

BAGA (SHORK)

ZU (ZHK)

SMALL MOVE-MENTS ...

...AND QUICKLY ...!

HYU (FWOO)

HYU

HYU

HAH!

YAH!

GOCHI (SHAK)

KURU (TURN)

KAN (DONG)

EIGHT.

NINE.

GA (CLONK)

HIYAA!

NIYA (GRIN)

!!

O EARTH MOTHER, ABOUNDING IN MERCY, GRANT YOUR SACRED LIGHT...

...TO WE WHO ARE LOST IN DARKNESS!

PAU (SHINE)

HOLY LIGHT!

TEN.

BA (SHOK)

I...DON'T THINK SO.

ARE YOU INJURED?

NO, I...

I SEE.

USING HOLY LIGHT WAS A GOOD CHOICE.

...EH HEH HEH...

OH...

U-UM!

TH—

THANK...

...YOU?

GET IT TOGETHER!

STOP IT!

PESHI

PESHI (SMACK)

WE HAD THREE DEAD GOBLINS ALREADY.

NOT QUITE TWENTY IN TOTAL.

I BELIEVE WE SAID FIVE OR SIX IN THE SQUARE.

THAT MAKES THIRTEEN.

IT'S NOT VERY... GOBLIN-LIKE, IS IT?

I DON'T LIKE THIS. NOT HOW THE HOSTAGES ARE ALL IN ONE PLACE...

...NOR HOW THE BODIES OF VILLAGERS WHO RESISTED SHOW NO SIGNS OF ABUSE.

I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING THEY COULD HOLD BACK THEIR BASE DESIRES OR LUST FOR VIOLENCE...

...LONG ENOUGH TO BRING THEIR PRISONERS TO A SINGLE SPOT AND QUIETLY CONTINUE LOOTING.

FOR A GOBLIN, "HOME" IS WHEREVER IT'S PILLAGING AT THAT MOMENT.

IT COULD JUST BE GOBLINS.

...DO YOU THINK ANOTHER OGRE OR DARK ELF IS BEHIND THIS?

I DON'T KNOW.

FUWA (WAFT)

...HUH?

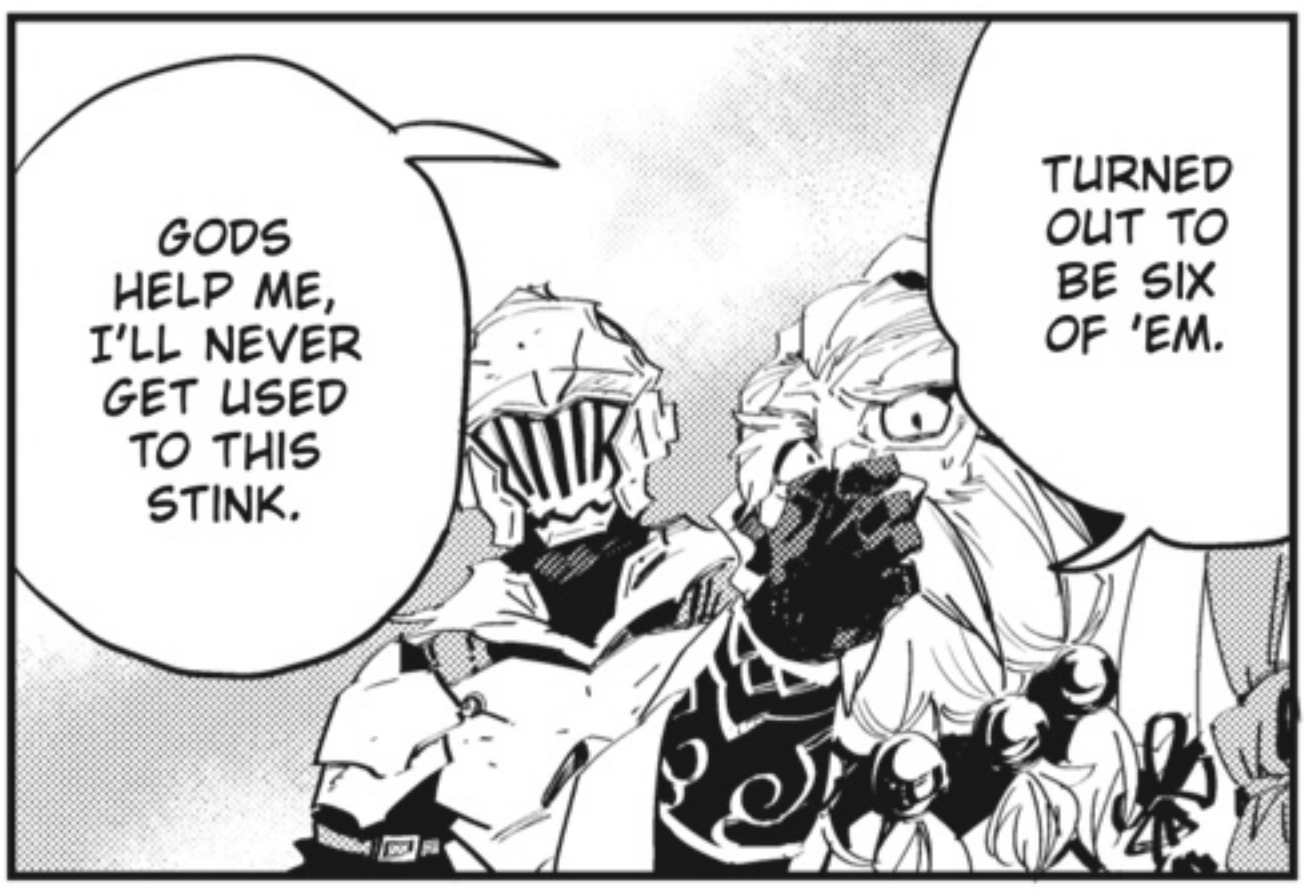
THEY'RE PUTTING EVERYONE TO SLEEP, GOBLINS AND HOSTAGES BOTH.

EFFICIENT. GOOD.

I KNOW THIS SMELL... IT'S STUPOR.

AH... AH-HA-HA...

ORCBOLG, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?


GODS HELP ME, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THIS STINK.
TURNED OUT TO BE SIX OF 'EM.

AH... URGH...

SURE THAT'S ALL OF THEM?
SIX IN ALL... SIMPLE ARITHMETIC.
ONCE THE SPELL WAS IN EFFECT, I DISPATCHED THREE OF THEM, AND MISTRESS RANGER THREE MORE.

A SILVER RANK TAG...!

WE'RE ADVEN-TURERS.

ADVENTURERS' GUILD

...WHO MIGHT YOU FOLKS BE?

ARE YOU THE VILLAGE CHIEF?

ER... Y-YES, THAT'S ME, BUT...

BY THE GODS...!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

I AM.

ARE YOU THE ONE THEY CALL THE GOBLIN SLAYER —!?

THANK YOU...!!

YOU REALLY CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR US...!!

THANK YOU...

HER PARENTS DIED NOT LONG AGO. SHE ONLY JUST TOOK UP THE TRADE.

AND WE DON'T HAVE MANY HERBS FOR HER TO USE ANYWAY...

UNDER-STOOD.

ER...

W-WELL, YES, BUT...

FIRST, DO YOU HAVE AN HERBALIST OR HEALER IN THIS VILLAGE?

I HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS.

...OUR MEDICINE WOMAN IS STILL A YOUNG'UN...

THOUGH I'M SORRY TO SAY WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POTIONS TO SPARE.

YOU MEAN IT...?

WE WILL HELP CARE FOR THE WOUNDED.

MY PARTY...

...HAS TWO CLERICS.

DOES THAT UPSET YOU?

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

N-NO!

NOT AT ALL!

WE CAN OFFER ONLY MIRACLES AND FIRST AID.

THE SLAYER OF GOBLINS... THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A TALL TALE FROM THE BALLADS...

NORMAL SPELLS ARE ONE THING, BUT CONTROLLING BONES IS...

THAT, AND FRONTIER PEOPLE ARE SUPERSTITIOUS.

I ONCE THOUGHT THAT WAY MYSELF.

WAS THE NEED TO HEAL THE VILLAGERS WHY YOU STOPPED ME FROM CREATING A DRAGONTOOTH WARRIOR?

ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD?

HAVE YOU SEEN A SMALL GIRL!?

SHE'S MY SISTER!

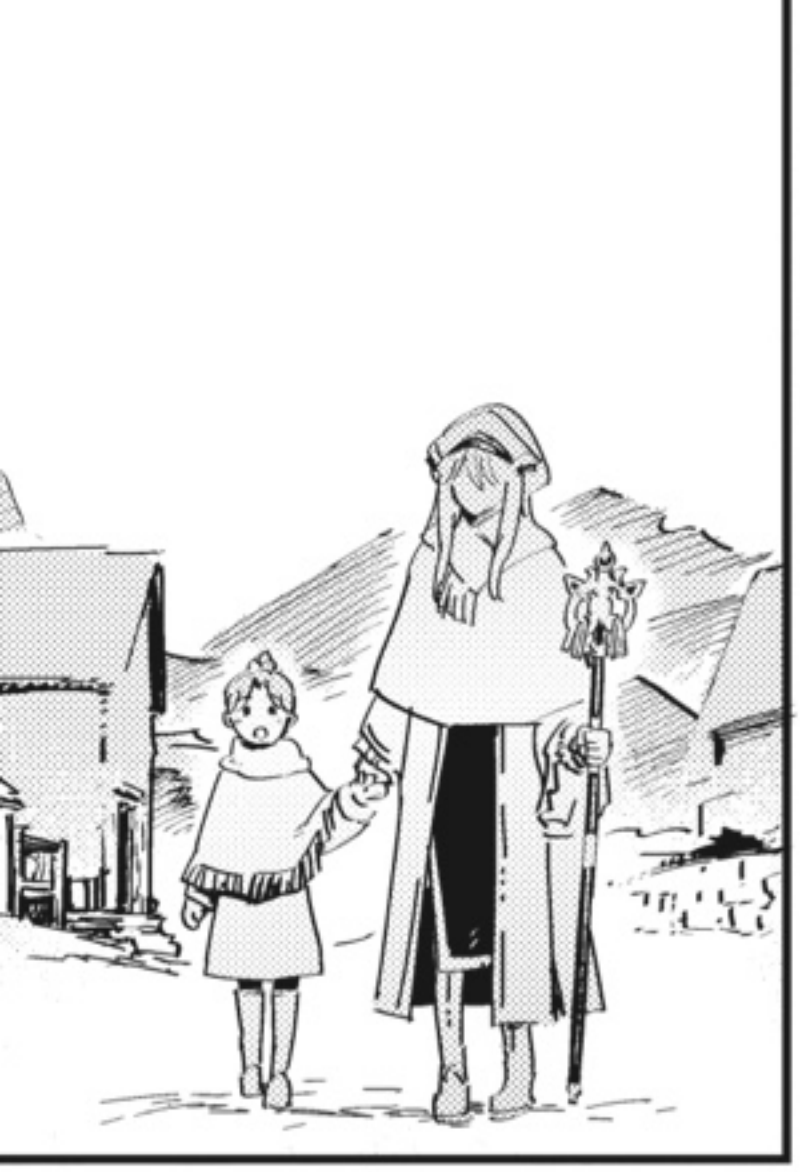
MY BELOVED LITTLE...!

WASN'T SHE WITH YOU?

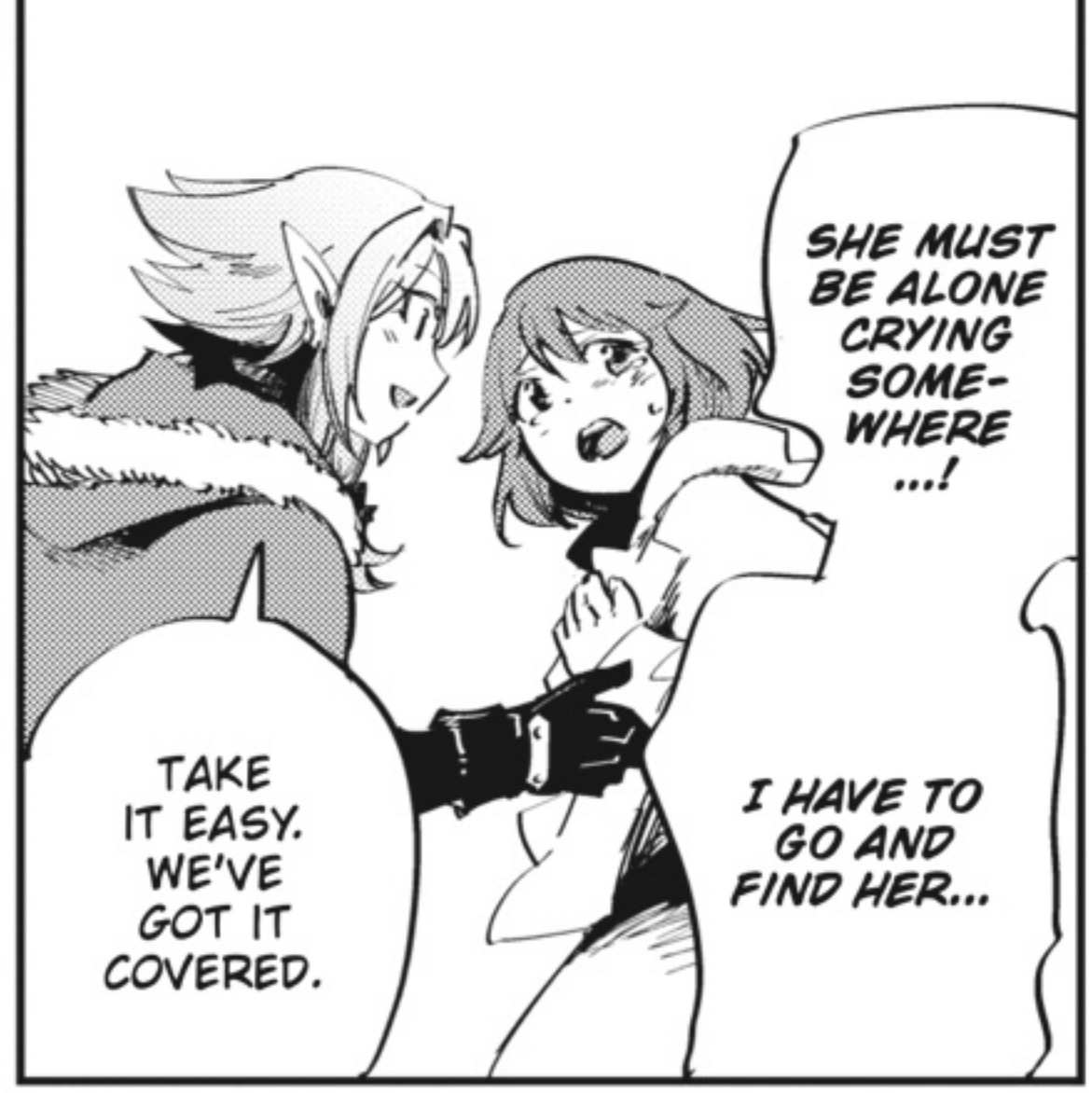
HEY, ORCBOLG, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KID?

SIR!

A MOMENT, PLEASE!



BIG SIS!


SHE MUST BE ALONE CRYING SOME-WHERE ...!
TAKE IT EASY. WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
I HAVE TO GO AND FIND HER...

PORO (PLOP)
PORO
OH—
OHHH!

SOMEONE SEEMS HAPPY.
HEE HEE!
...IS THAT SO?
BIG SIS !!

I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN, BUT I AM THIS VILLAGE'S MEDICINE WOMAN!

OH, AND...

...I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO HELP WITH TREATING THE WOUNDED.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, PLEASE JUST ASK!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY SISTER... FOR SAVING MY VILLAGE!

THINK NOTHING OF IT. WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP.

VERY WELL. COME, WE MUST CLASSIFY THE WOUNDED BY THE SEVERITY OF THEIR INJURIES.

YES, SIR!

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL TAKE SOME WATER TO WASH THE WOUNDS OF THE INJURED, AND PLEASE HELP OUR CLERICS GIVE FIRST AID AS WELL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

IT'LL BE JUST FINE!

CAN YOU MOVE IT?

IT WILL BE SORE FOR A WHILE.

HAVE A BIT OF DWARVEN FIRE WINE.

'TIS AS GOOD FOR POURING ON A WOUND AS IT IS FOR POURING DOWN YOUR THROAT. TRY EITHER... OR BOTH!

SAY THERE, LITTLE GIRL!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!

"GOBLIN SLAYER, KINDEST ON THE FRONTIER"!

IT EVEN WORKED ON YOU! YOU RECRUITED HIM BECAUSE YOU HEARD THAT SONG, RIGHT?

TRUE ENOUGH, BUT...

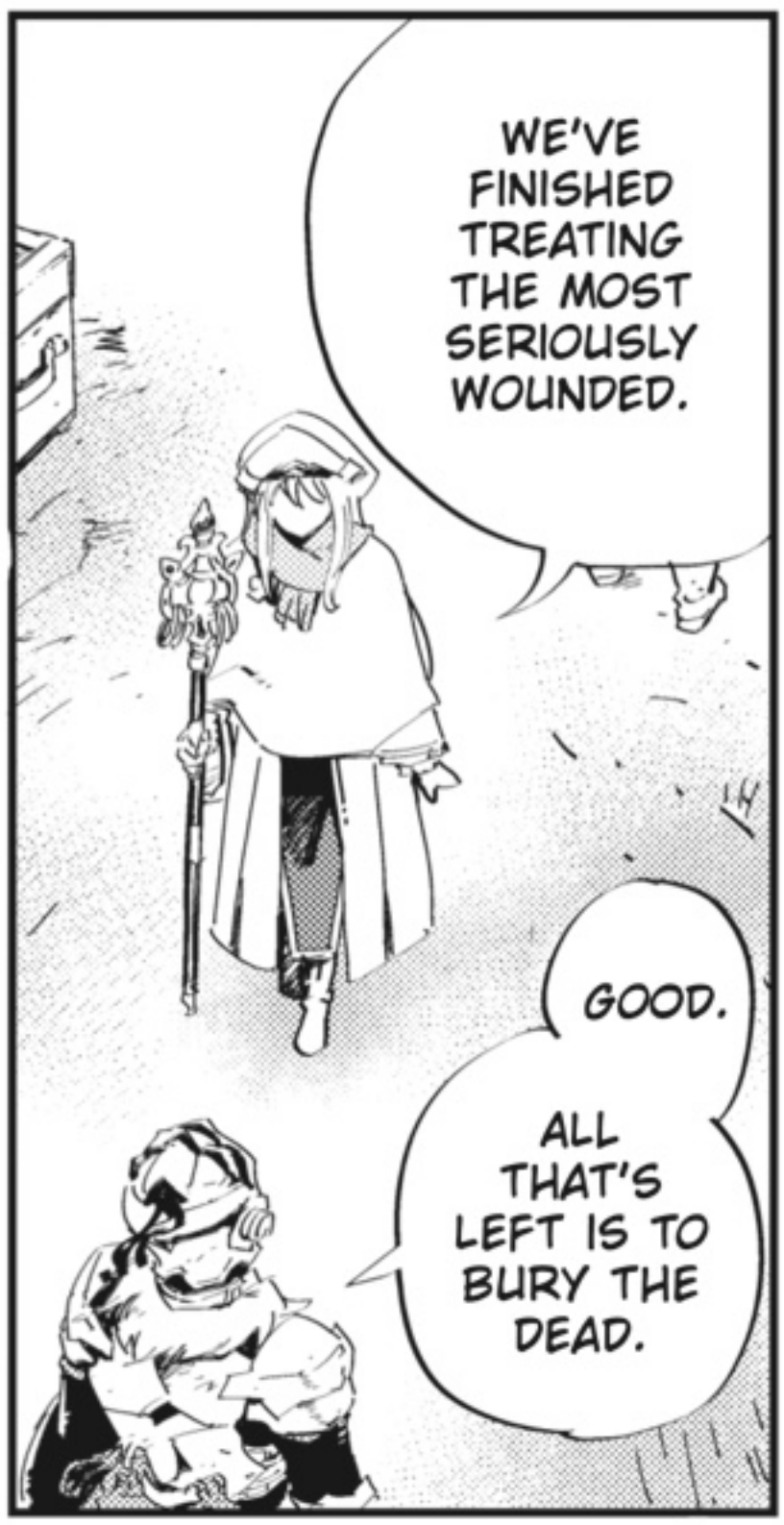
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?

ORCBOLG ACTUALLY CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION WHEN HE WANTS TO.

WELL, OUTTA THE LOT OF US, HE'S SPREAD HIS NAME THE FARTHEST.

SO YA SHOULDN'T ENVY HER JUST 'COS YOU'VE GOT AN ANVIL FOR A CHEST.
NOW YOU'VE SAID IT, YOU LUSH!

...TURNS OUT THE SONG AND REALITY DON'T HAVE MUCH IN COMMON.


WE'VE FINISHED TREATING THE MOST SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.
GOOD.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO BURY THE DEAD.

ALTHOUGH... I GUESS HE GETS ON PRETTY WELL WITH THAT GIRL AT THE GUILD, AT LEAST.
JEALOUSY'S THE PRIVILEGE OF THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THE TRUE SITUATION.
ALWAYS HAS BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE.

THE DEAD RARELY COMPLAIN. NO ONE WILL BE UPSET SO LONG AS IT'S THE RITUAL OF A GOD OF ORDER.
BUT THE FUNERAL RITES...
I ONLY KNOW THE SERVICE PERFORMED IN THE EARTH MOTHER'S FAITH... DO YOU THINK THAT WILL BE ALL RIGHT?

ORCBOLG !!

HYU (FWOO)

ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE HAPPY TO DO THE SERVICES, THEN!

GA (THOCK)

DA (DASH)

YORO (STUMBLE)

SHURU (SHWIP)

PIXIES, PIXIES, HURRY, QUICKLY! NO SWEETS FOR YOU—I JUST NEED TRICKSIES!

HYU (FWOO)

SO IT WAS TWENTY...!

DON'T KILL HIM! WE'LL LET HIM CARRY DISEASE BACK TO HIS NEST!

PAU (SHHP)

TA (TIMP)

GORO (TUMBLE)
BACHII (KRAK)
YES.
HAPPY NOW?

BUT...

...THIS IS NOT YET OVER.

THE TWENTY THAT ATTACKED THIS VILLAGE— THEY'RE ONLY AN ADVANCE PARTY.

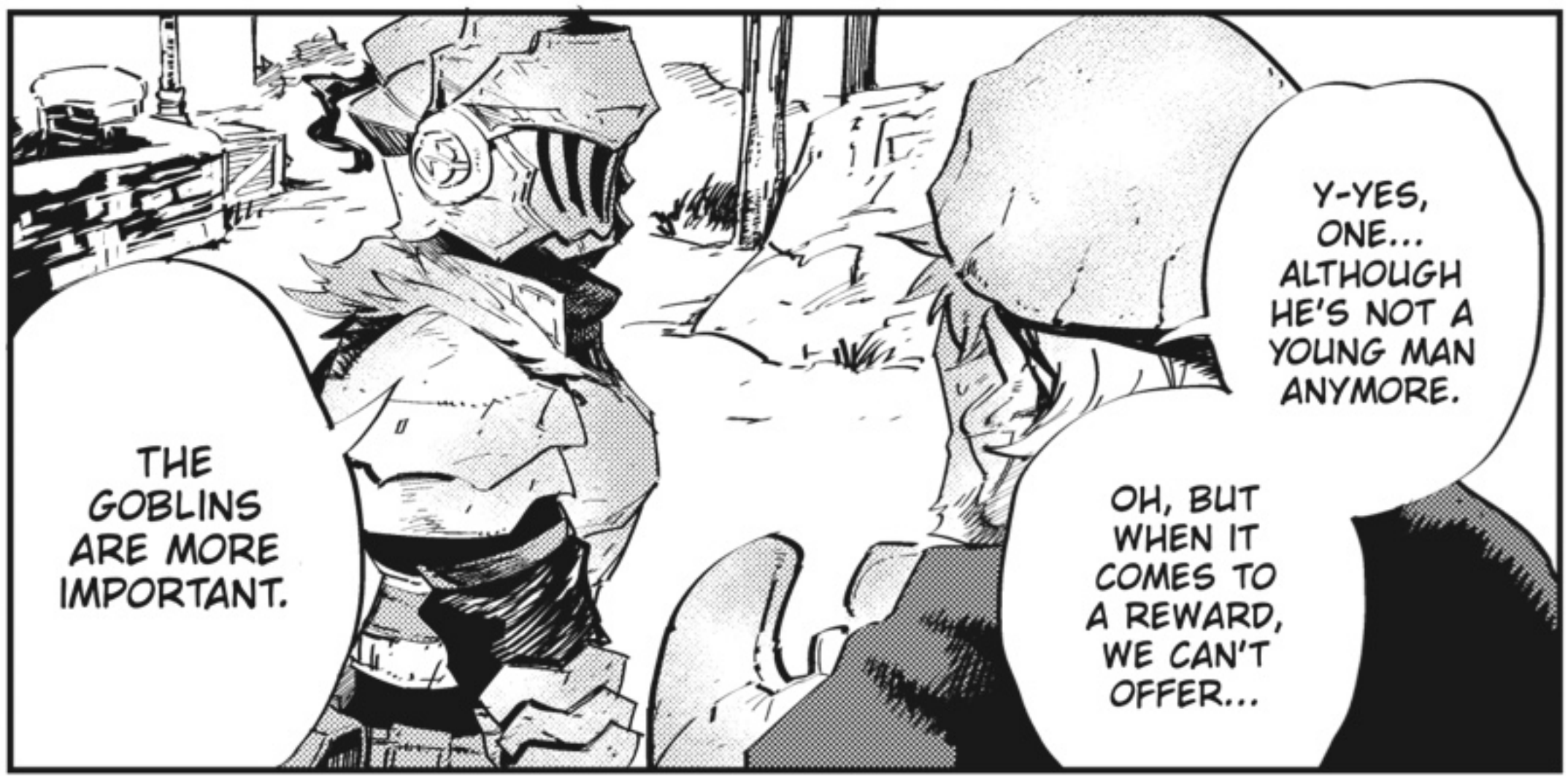
THERE MUST BE OTHERS.

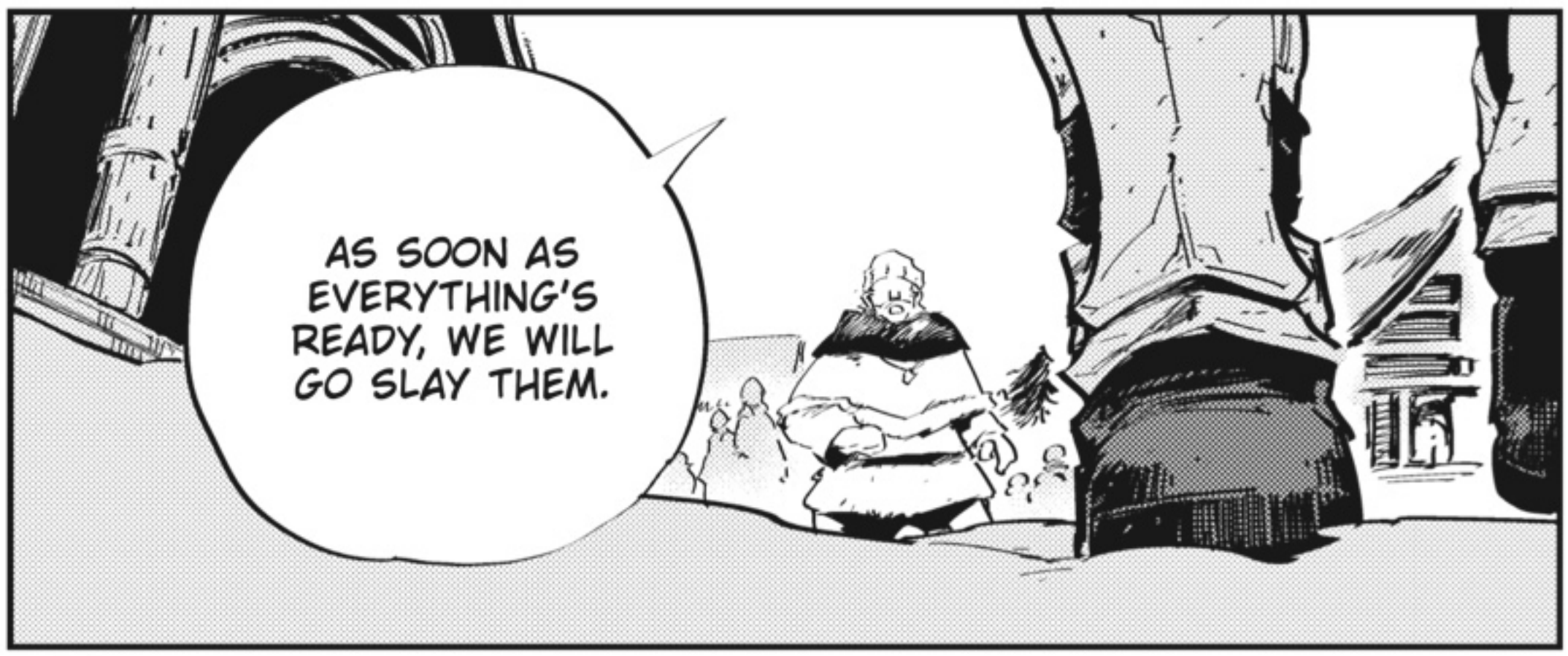
THEY PRIORITIZED PILLAGING AND GATHERED THE VILLAGERS IN ONE PLACE, THEN LEFT THE CAPTIVES ALONE WHILE THEY COLLECTED THE LOOT.

THEY WERE PLANNING TO TAKE EVERYTHING BACK TO THEIR NEST.

ONCE WE'VE REPLENISHED OUR SPELLS, WE GO ON THE ATTACK.

NEXT, TELL ME ABOUT THE ADVENTURERS WHO WERE HERE BEFORE US. AND ARE THERE ANY HUNTERS IN THIS VILLAGE?
Y-YES, OF COURSE! IN FACT, HAVING YOU HERE TO PROTECT US WOULD BE A BOON...
I WANT TO REQUEST SOME MATERIALS FOR A NIGHT ATTACK, AS WELL AS A PLACE TO REST FOR A NIGHT. YOU DON'T MIND?


THE GOBLINS ARE MORE IMPORTANT.
Y-YES, ONE... ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT A YOUNG MAN ANYMORE.
OH, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A REWARD, WE CAN'T OFFER...


AS SOON AS EVERYTHING'S READY, WE WILL GO SLAY THEM.

I FEEL LIKE I'M MELTING RIGHT INTO THE WATER...
GNNRR...

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE...?

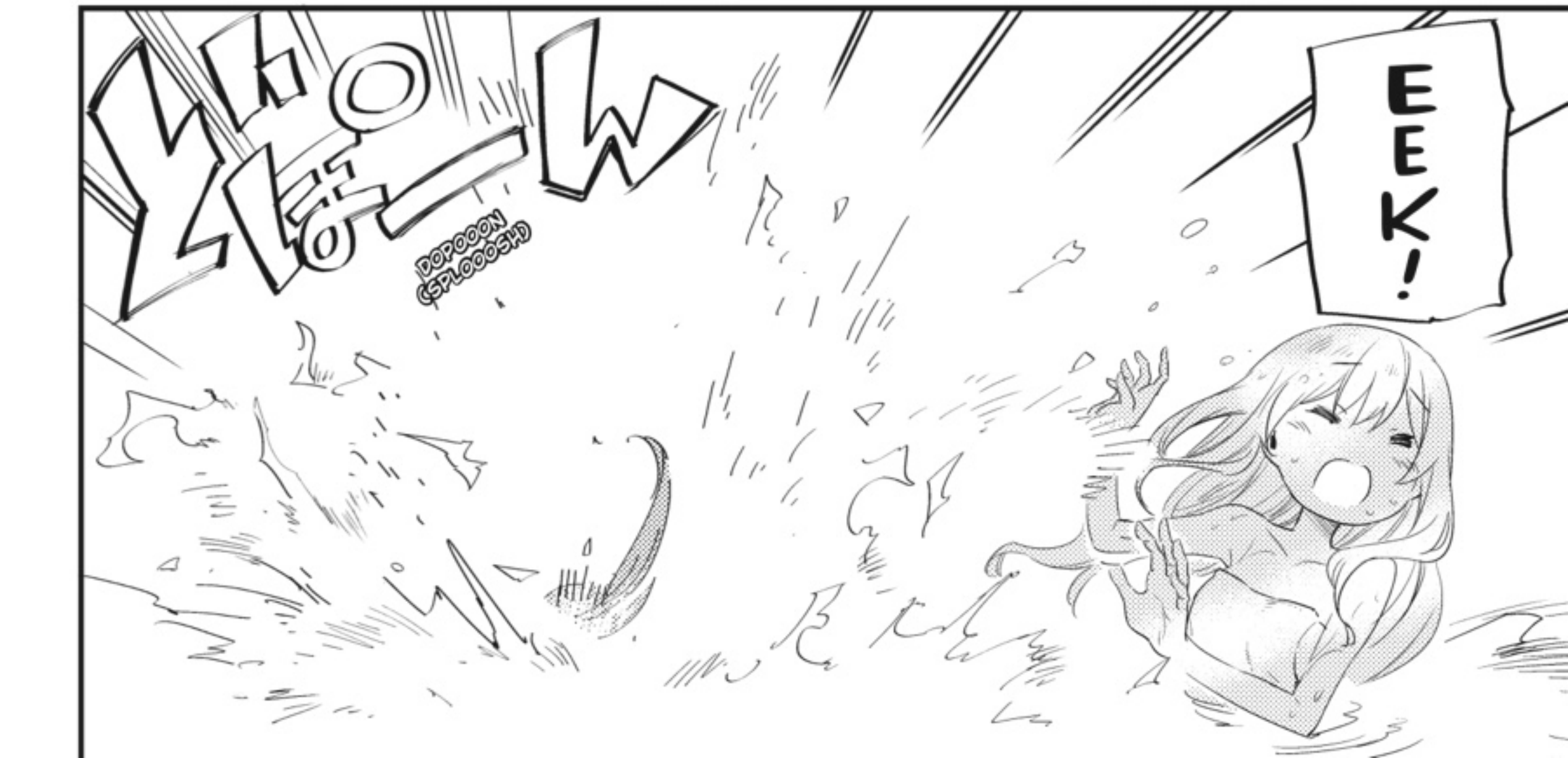
YES, I'M SURE.

IT'S JUST A PERFECTLY NORMAL SPRING WITH SOME HOT WATER.

PYON (JUMP)

ひょ

YAAAH!



PFWAH!

HEY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO JUMP IN LIKE THAT!

AHHH... SO WARM. IT'S KIND OF NICE...

...HEE HEE.

AH HA HA!

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I WAS TOO SCARED TO GET IN WITHOUT A LITTLE MOMENTUM...

I HAVE RUST-PROOFED MY EQUIPMENT.

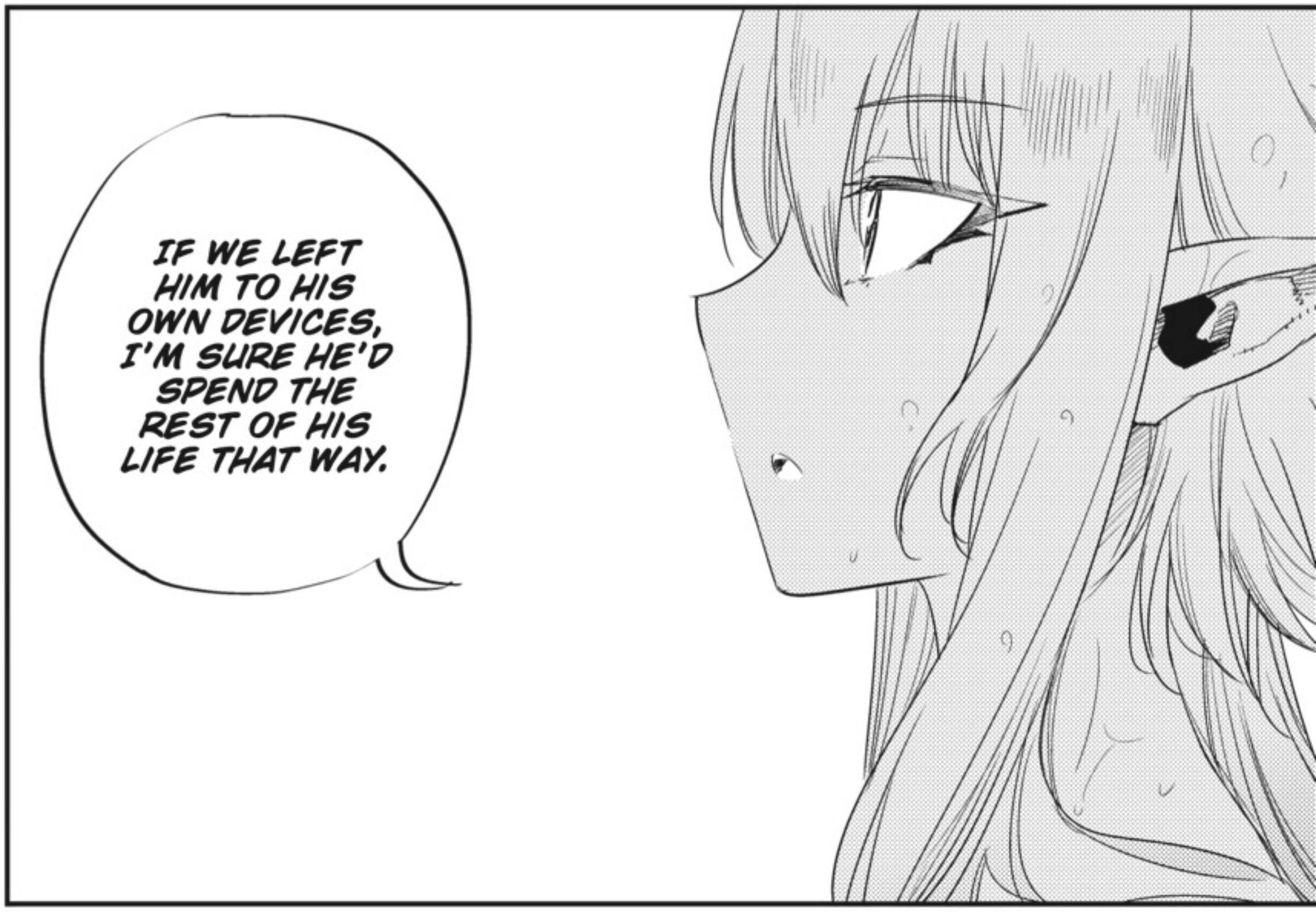
YOU HEARD HIM— "MUD IS MORE AMENABLE TO A LIZARD."
I WISH THE OTHERS WOULD HAVE JOINED US...

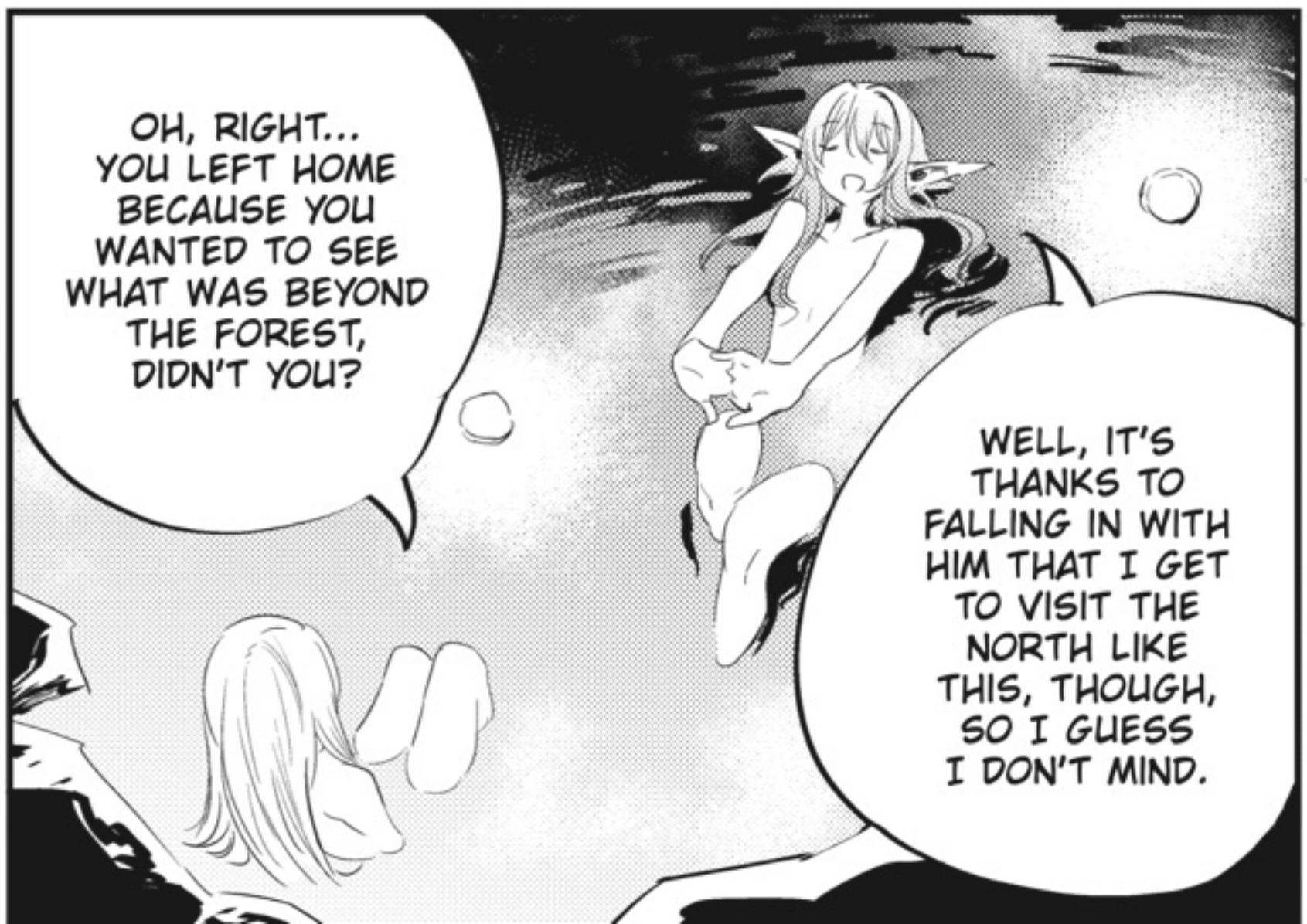
I WONDER IF HE WEARS HIS ARMOR AND HELMET EVEN IN THE BATH?

A MUD BATH! SERIOUSLY. MUD!

AND A CERTAIN DWARF CLAIMS TO FIND WINE MORE RESTORATIVE THAN WATER!

AS FOR ORCBOLG...


IF WE LEFT HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES, I'M SURE HE'D SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE THAT WAY.


OH, RIGHT... YOU LEFT HOME BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SEE WHAT WAS BEYOND THE FOREST, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, IT'S THANKS TO FALLING IN WITH HIM THAT I GET TO VISIT THE NORTH LIKE THIS, THOUGH, SO I GUESS I DON'T MIND.

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

...I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE LIVING FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

EVEN IF YOU CAN KEEP LIVING FOR AGES, WHAT'S THE POINT IF ALL YOU KNOW IS THE WOODS?

YOU'RE JUST... THERE.

IT'S LIKE BEING A HUGE, OLD TREE.

IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL.

YOU'RE HALF-RIGHT.

I HAD DUTIES TO CARRY OUT, AND THAT WAS FULFILLING.

SO YOU LEFT BECAUSE YOU...GOT BORED?

I WOULD HUNT OVERPOPULATED ANIMALS, RETURN THEM TO THE EARTH.

THERE'S ALWAYS WORK TO DO.

AS LONG AS THERE'S A FOREST, THERE ALWAYS WILL BE.

EAT FRUIT, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE CYCLES OF NATURE...

...AND CHANGES IN THE FOREST.

BUT ONE TIME...

...I HAPPENED TO CATCH SIGHT OF A LEAF FLOATING DOWN A RIVER.

SO I DECIDED TO FOLLOW IT.

AND I WONDERED IDLY HOW FAR IT WOULD GO.

...JUMPED FROM STONE TO STONE IN THE RIVER...

...ALWAYS FOLLOWING THAT LEAF.

SUDDENLY, I REALIZED I COULDN'T STOP.

I RAN THROUGH THE TREES...

AND THEN...

WHAT DID YOU FIND...?

AND THEN?

ONE THE HUMANS HAD MADE.

NOTHING VERY INTERESTING.

THE LEAF GOT STUCK ON IT AND STOPPED.

A DIKE.

IF THE WOMB OF THE WIND IS BEYOND THE HORIZON, THEN WHERE DOES THE RAINBOW COME DOWN FROM THE SKY?

WHAT IS IT THAT WAITS AT THE END OF THE RIVER? WHAT IS IT THAT BLOOMS WHERE THE BIRDS DO FLY?

FAR MUST WE WALK TO DISCOVER THE ANSWERS...

...BUT FAIR ARE THE THINGS ON THE WAY THAT WE FIND.

I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT TIME!

G-GEEZ, WHAT BROUGHT THAT ON...!?

AT LEAST YOU'LL KEEP GROWING.

...YOU'RE SO LUCKY.

SO WAS MY COMMENT.

THAT SONG'S ABOUT TIME.

...YOU HUMANS ARE LUCKY TO LIVE A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE YOU DIE, RIGHT?

...LOOK.

I'VE STILL GOT LOADS OF TIME TO SPARE, BUT, WELL...

MAYBE THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE TO ME IF I WERE HUMAN?

I WONDER WHY EVERYONE CAN'T LIVE FOR A LONG TIME.

...I THINK IF YOU WERE BORN A HUMAN, YOU WOULD WISH YOU COULD BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS AN ELF.

COULD I HAVE BEEN MORE HELP TO HIM...?

...COULD I HAVE SAVED THEM?

...IF I HAD MORE MIRACLES...

IF I WERE A BETTER FIGHTER...

IF...

IF WE LEFT HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES, I'M SURE HE'D SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE THAT WAY.

THE WAY I AM NOW...

IF I STAY THIS WAY...

AND I BET...

.....

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

...IF YOU'D BEEN BORN AN ELF...

...YOU WOULD WISH YOU COULD BE A HUMAN.

BUT YOU KNOW...

...THE WORLD NEVER TURNS OUT QUITE THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO.

I THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL IT A NIGHT.

YEAH.

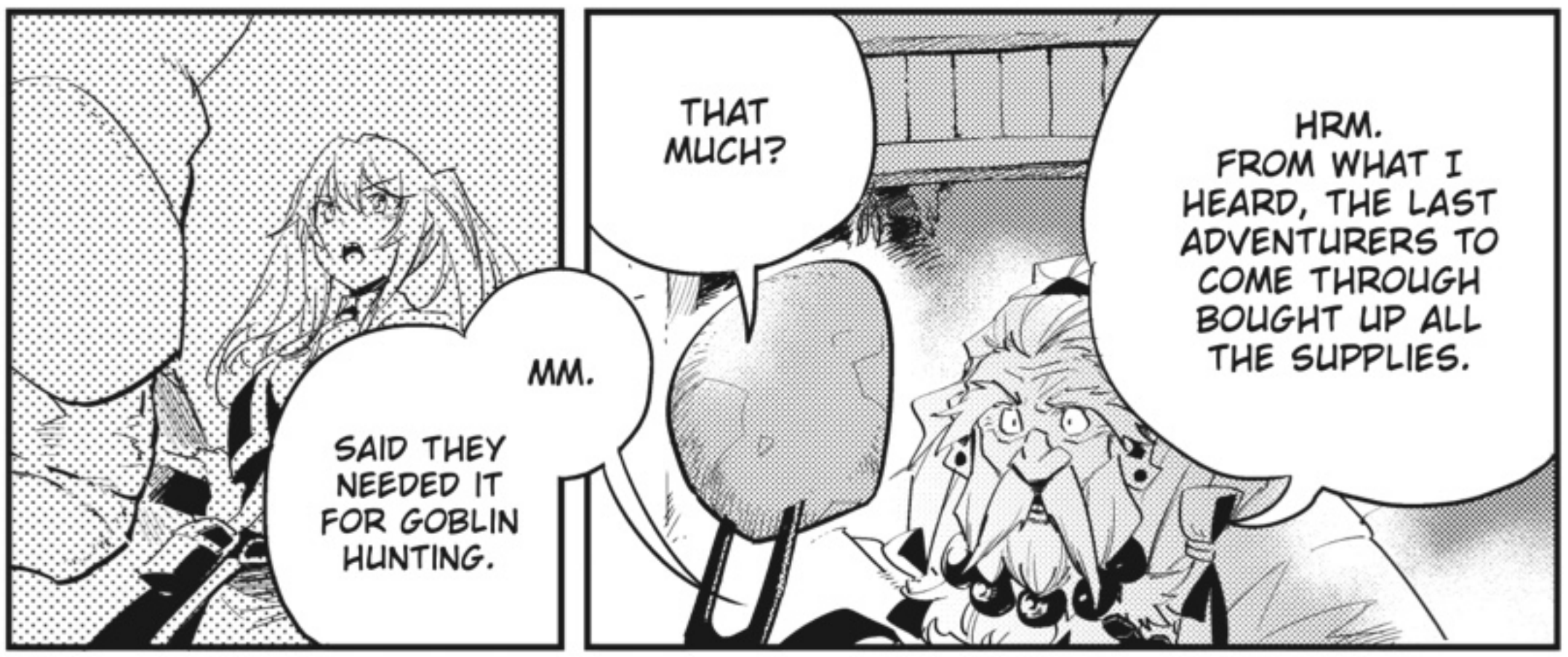
CHAPTER 43

THE SITUATION DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

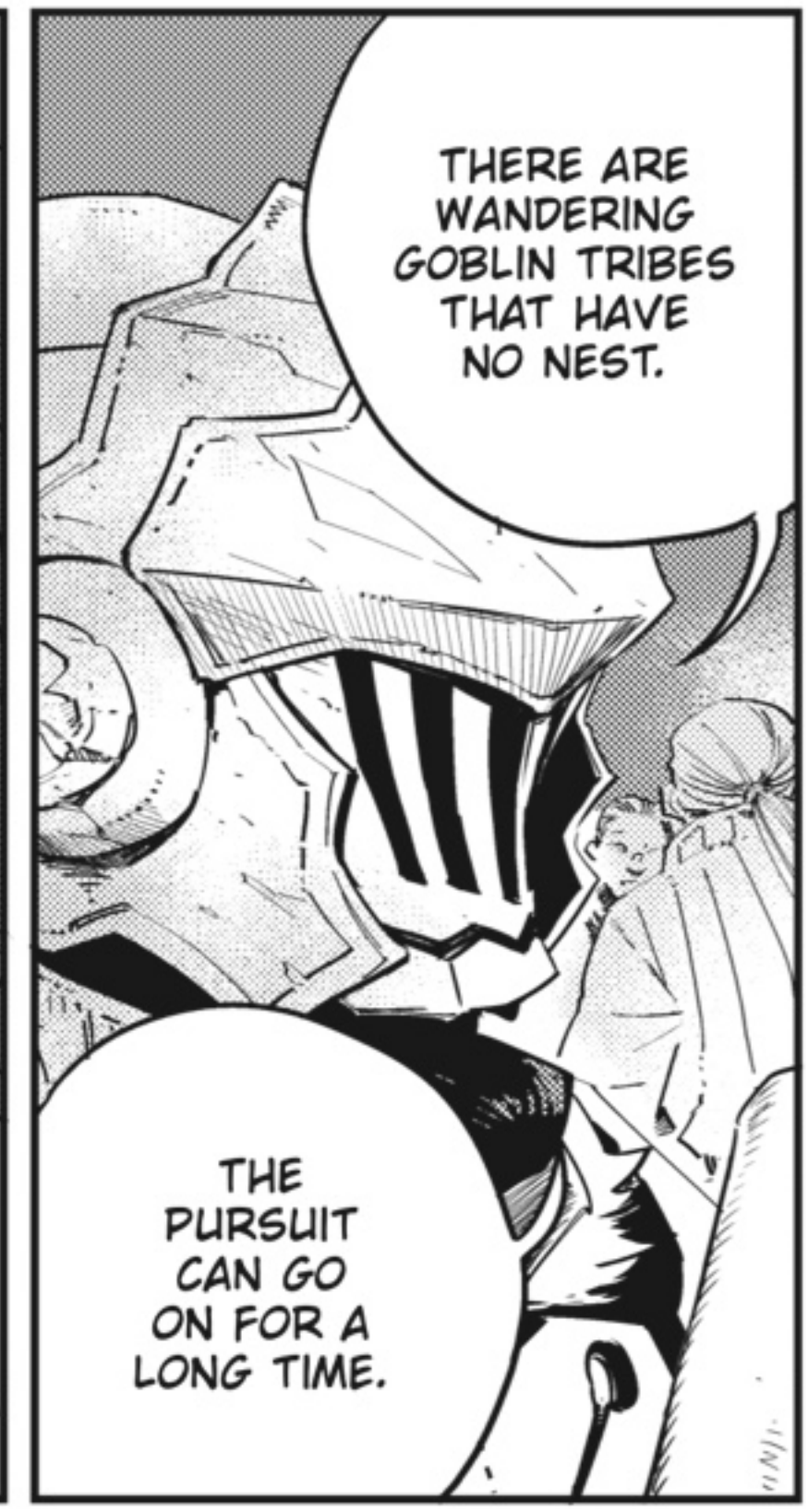
SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING TO CONSERVE RESOURCES FOR WINTER.

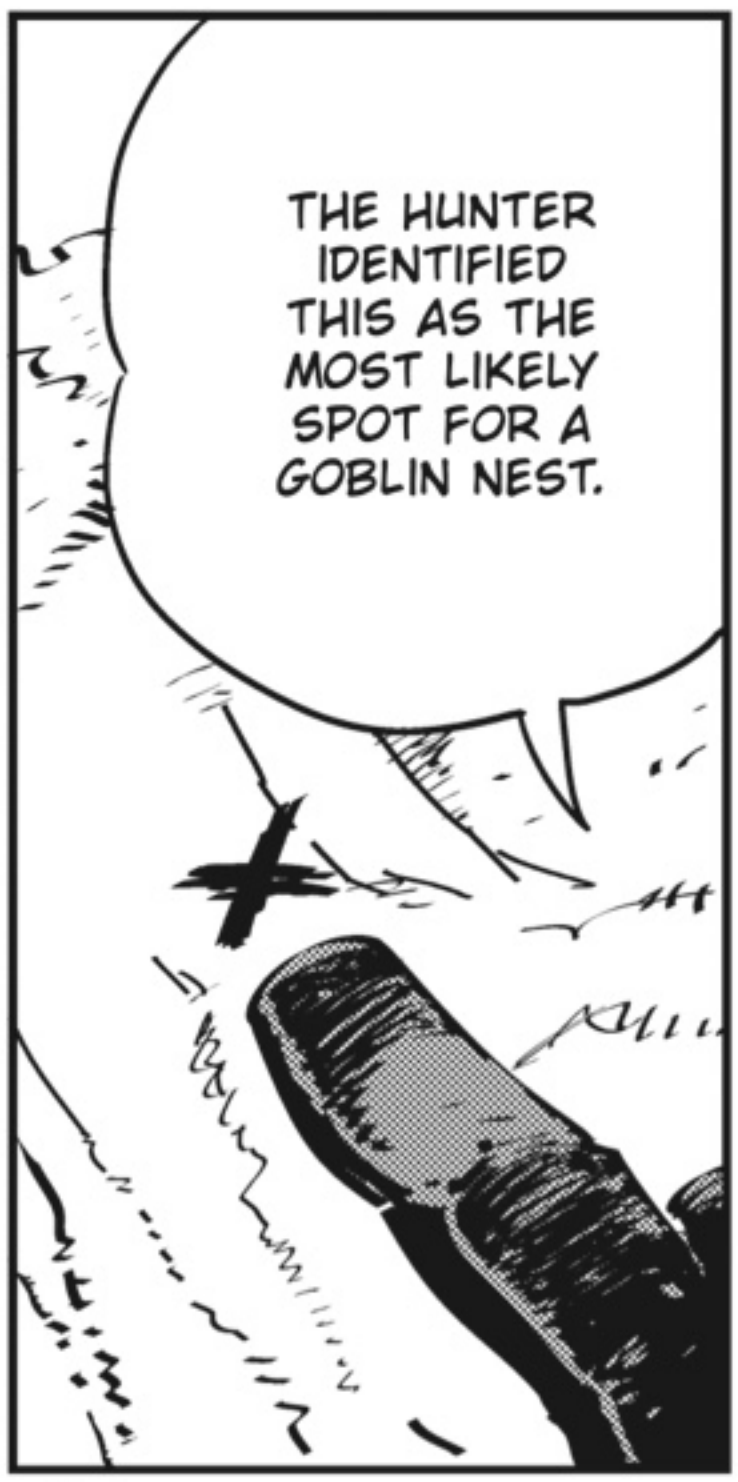
AND ALL THE FOOD'S MADE FROM POTATOES!

THEY DON'T SEEM VERY HAPPY TO SEE US, DO THEY?



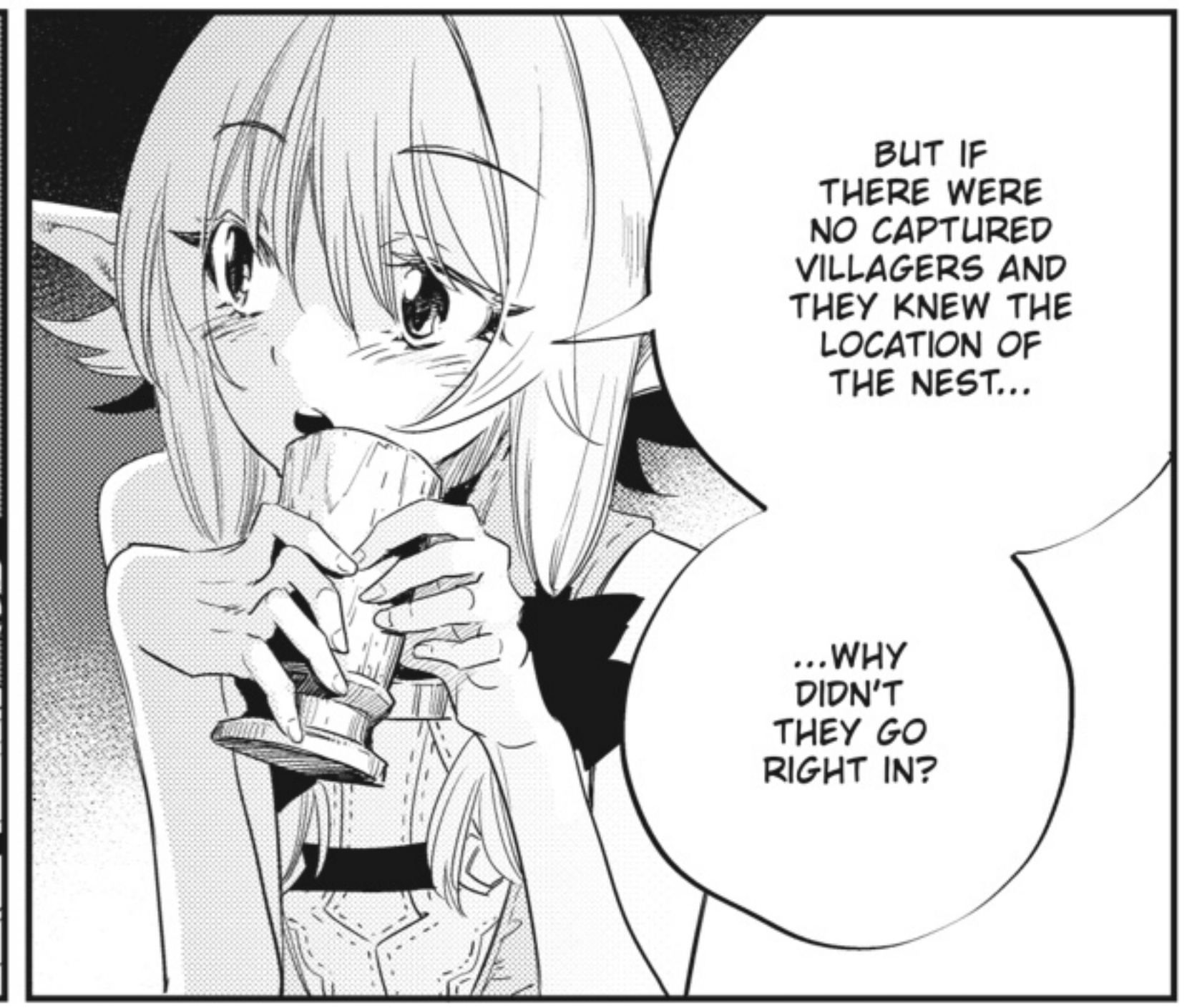
BUT TIME'S SOMETHING WE DON'T HAVE.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INSIDE OF THE NEST OR THEIR NUMBERS. PLUS, THOSE ADVENTURERS COULD STILL BE ALIVE.


THERE ARE WANDERING GOBLIN TRIBES THAT HAVE NO NEST.
THE PURSUIT CAN GO ON FOR A LONG TIME.

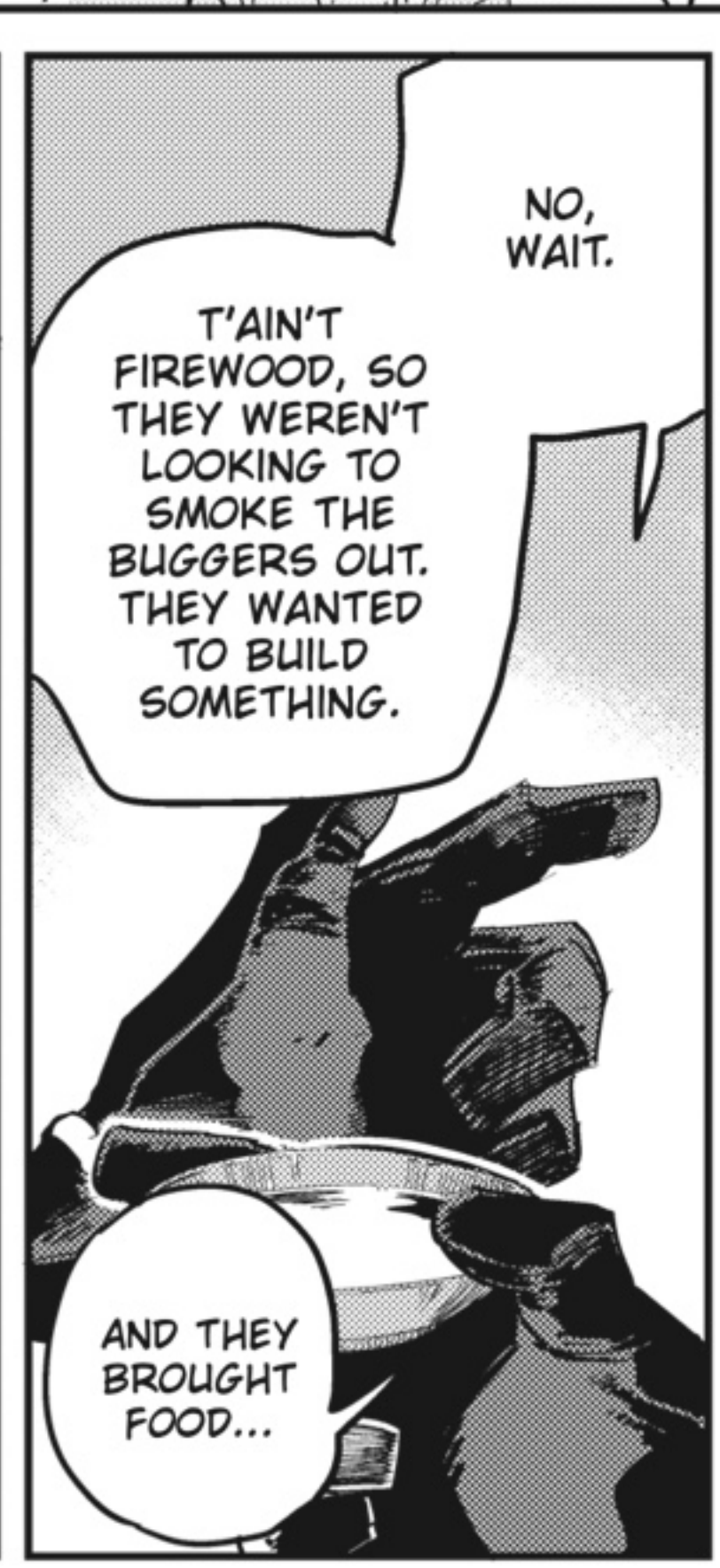

THE HUNTER IDENTIFIED THIS AS THE MOST LIKELY SPOT FOR A GOBLIN NEST.

GASA (RUSTLE)
ガサ
BUT NO VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED. A SMALL BLESSING.

I THINK I CAN GUESS.


BUT IF THERE WERE NO CAPTURED VILLAGERS AND THEY KNEW THE LOCATION OF THE NEST...
...WHY DIDN'T THEY GO RIGHT IN?

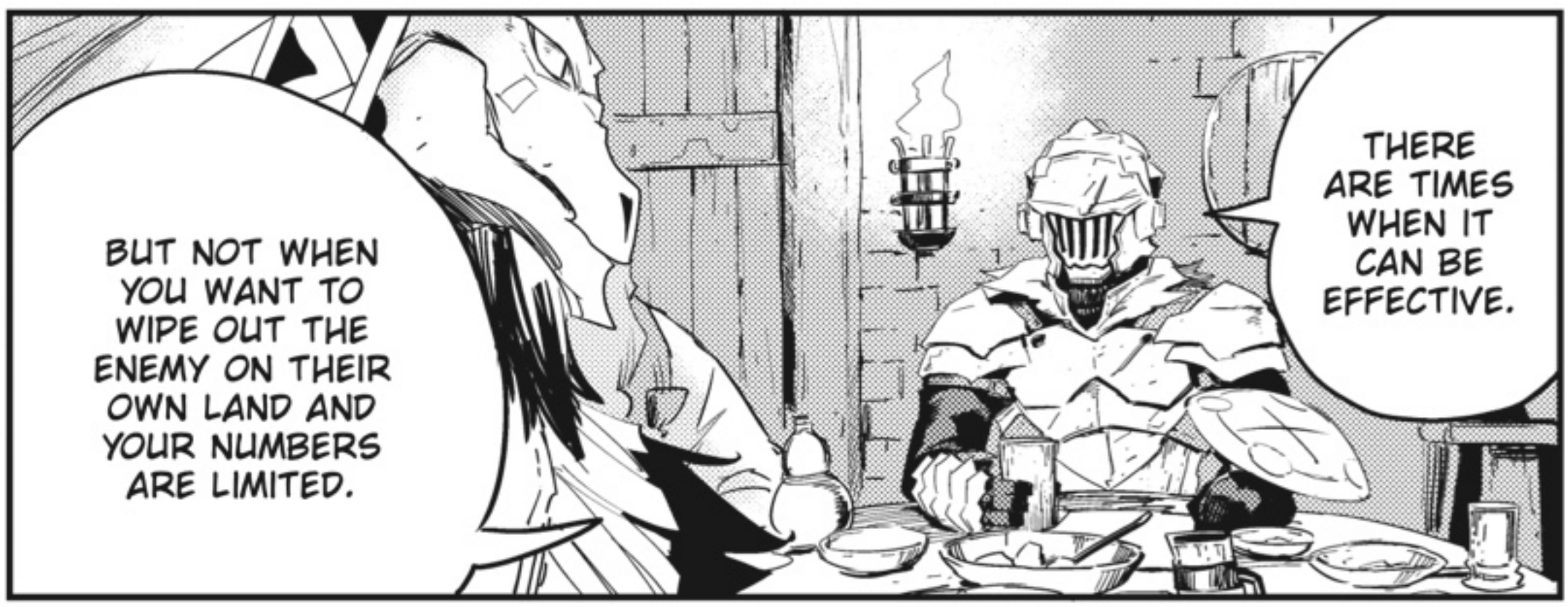
THEY WEREN'T PLANNING TO—!?
YES.
THEY MEANT TO STARVE THEM OUT.

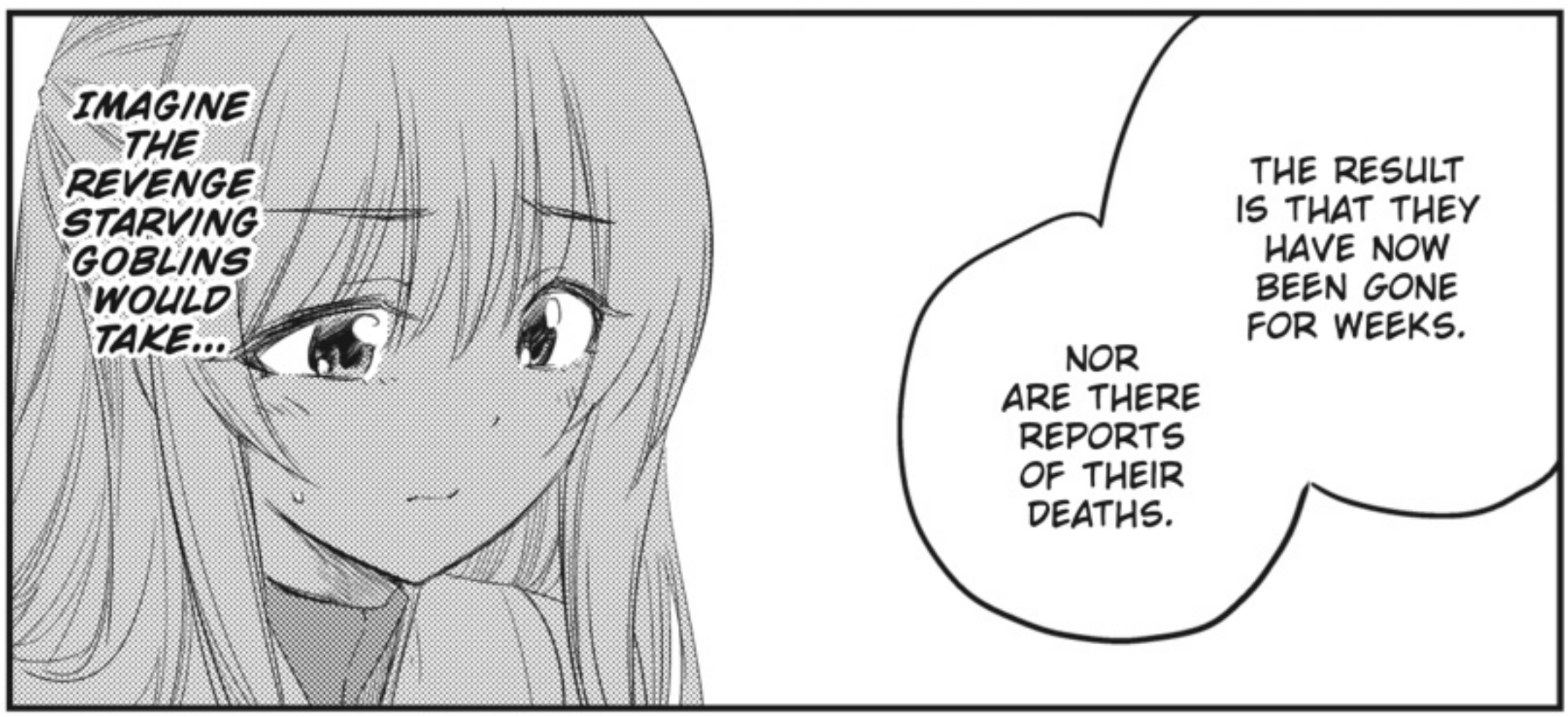

NO, WAIT.
T'AIN'T FIREWOOD, SO THEY WEREN'T LOOKING TO SMOKE THE BUGGERS OUT. THEY WANTED TO BUILD SOMETHING.
AND THEY BROUGHT FOOD...

THE MEDICINE WOMAN TOLD ME.
THE LAST PARTY BOUGHT A GREAT DEAL OF LUMBER AND OTHER SUPPLIES.
LUMBER? WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD THEY...?

IF ONE BELIEVES THAT THE ENEMY IS MANY AND KNOWS ONE'S OWN NUMBER IS FEW...

KARI (KRAK)
カリ…


BUT NOT WHEN YOU WANT TO WIPE OUT THE ENEMY ON THEIR OWN LAND AND YOUR NUMBERS ARE LIMITED.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT CAN BE EFFECTIVE.


IMAGINE THE REVENGE STARVING GOBLINS WOULD TAKE...
THE RESULT IS THAT THEY HAVE NOW BEEN GONE FOR WEEKS.
NOR ARE THERE REPORTS OF THEIR DEATHS.

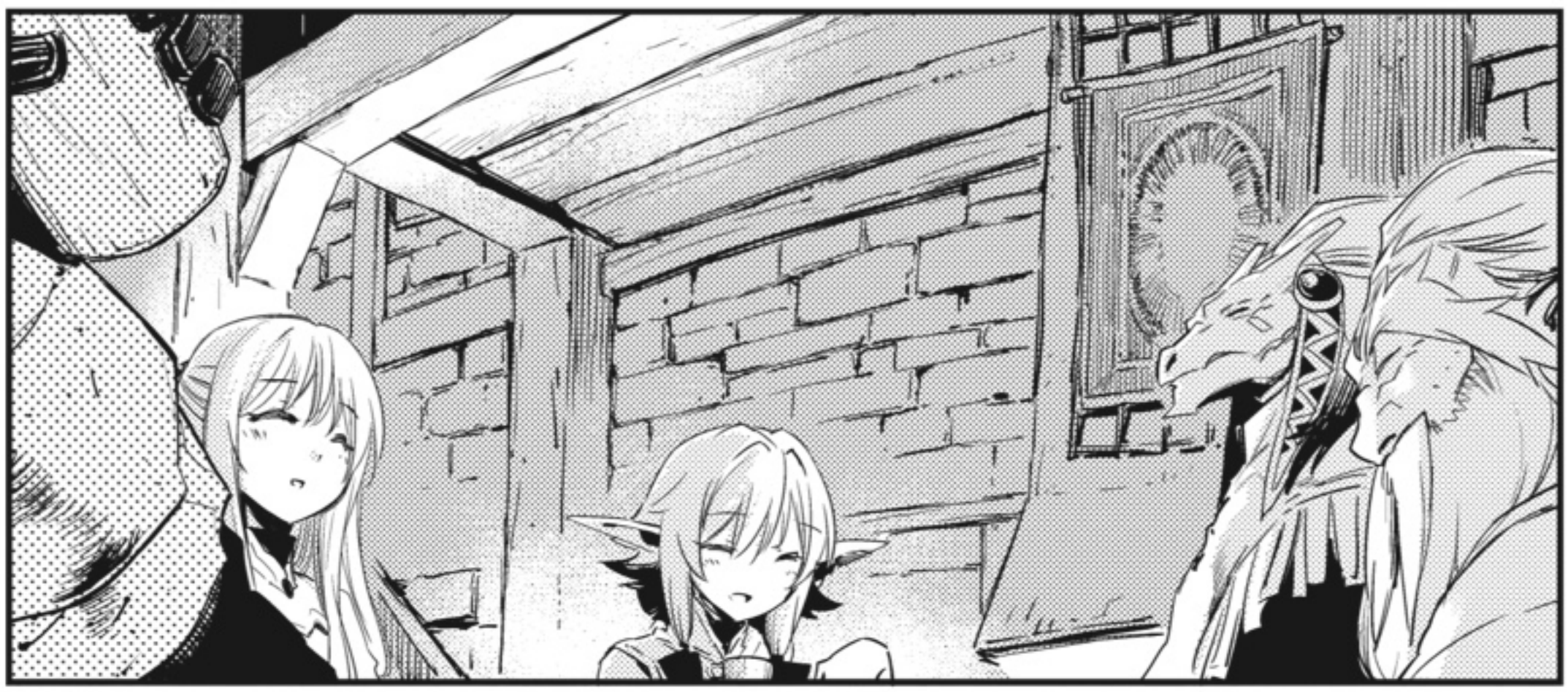
IT WOULD BE UNBEARABLE.

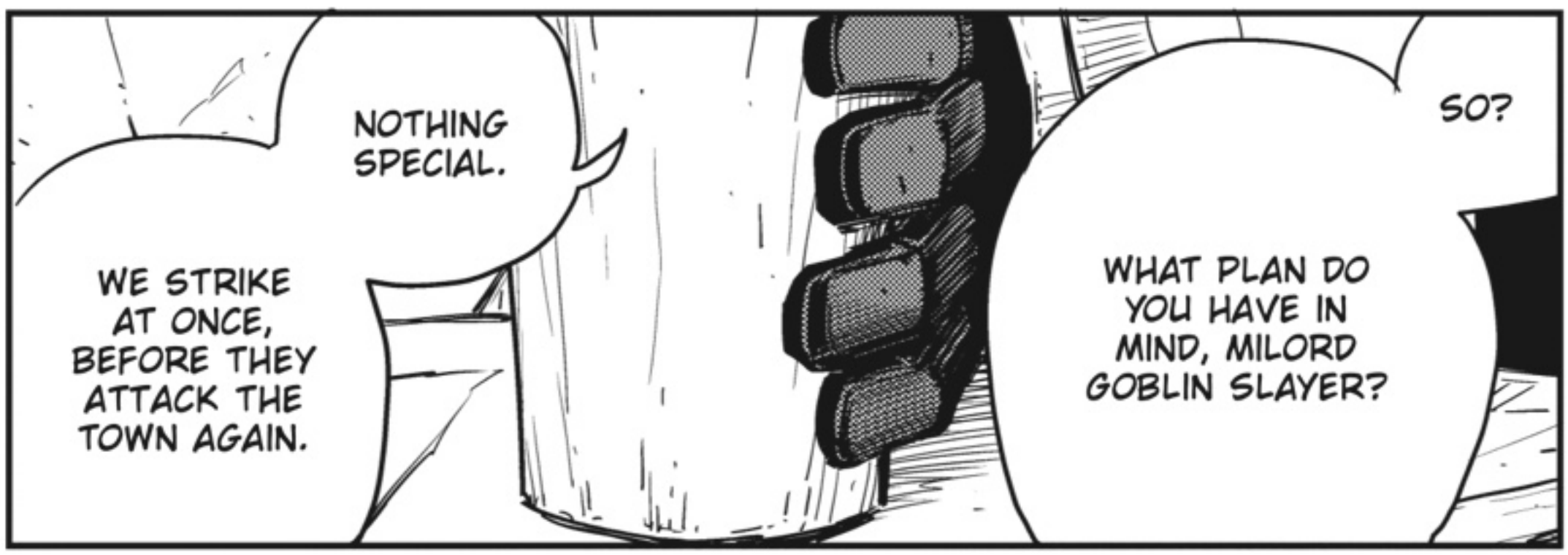
ADVENTURERS WITHOUT SUPPLIES ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD.

WE CAN PREPARE NOTHING OURSELVES— NOT A SWORD, NOT A POTION, HARDLY A MEAL.

I AM TRYING.

...ORCBOLG, MAYBE YOU COULD THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE FOR ONCE.




NOTHING SPECIAL.
WE STRIKE AT ONCE, BEFORE THEY ATTACK THE TOWN AGAIN.
SO?
WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE IN MIND, MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER?

A BLITZ.

I'M...

FREEEZING!

ガチ GACHI

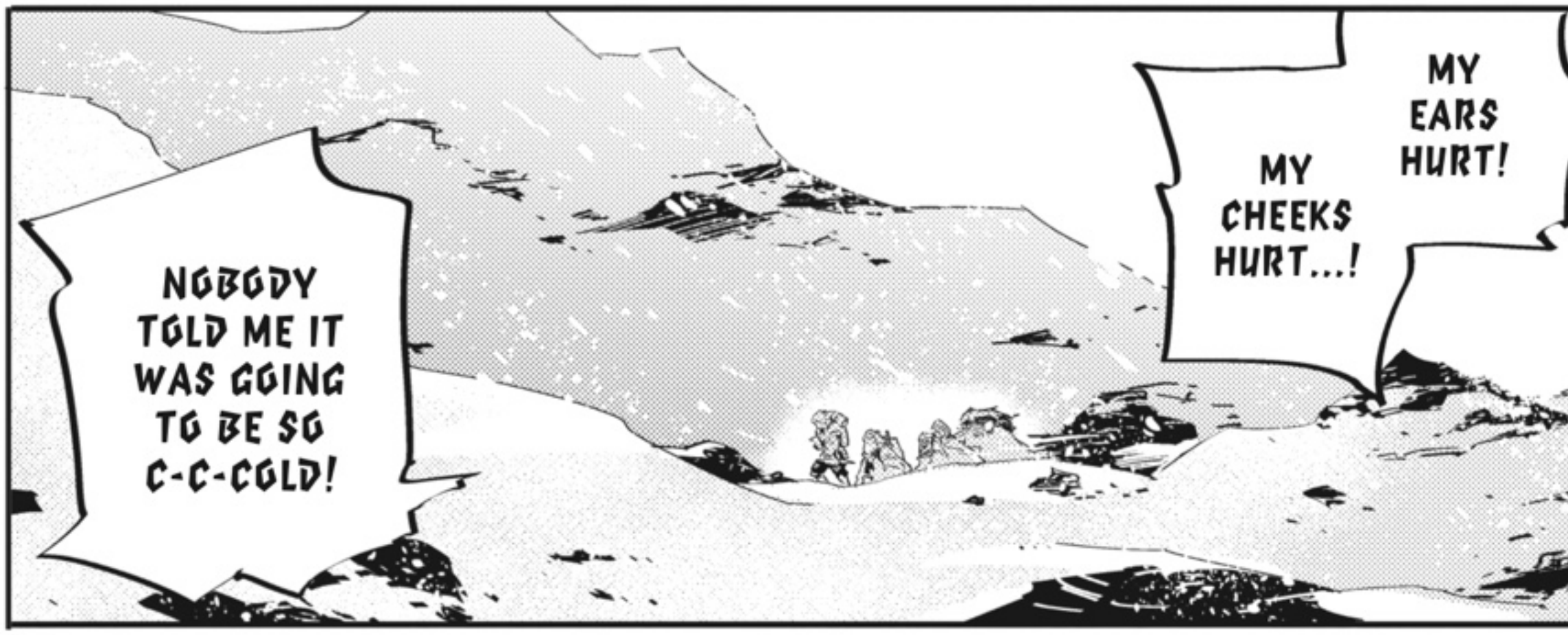
ガチ GACHI

GACHI (CHATTER)

ガチ

ブ—

ブRRRR!



GOOD. IN FACT...

HOW DOES IT LOOK AHEAD, MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER?

...WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

WE'LL NEED TO WARM UP A BIT BEFORE WE DIVE IN.

I'LL LOOK FOR A SUITABLE ROCK TO SHELTER BEHIND.

YES.

DIG UNDER THE SNOW, THEN DIG A LITTLE DEEPER. LIFE LESSON FOR YEH, KIDDO.

WHERE DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND DRY BRANCHES?

NOT "OKAY."

IT IS NECESSARY. YOU MUST DO THIS FOR BRIEF PERIODS, OR YOUR BODY WILL NEVER RELAX.

HUH? IS IT OKAY TO BE DOING THAT?

GOSO (RUB)

YES, SIR.

YOUR FEET TOO. DON'T FORGET.

SFX: SHU (RUB) SHU

IF THEY'RE POISONED BY ICE SPRITES, THEY WILL ROT AND FALL OFF.

RUB YOUR HANDS AND FEET.

EEK!

MY SOCKS GOT MUCH WETTER THAN I THOUGHT...

GOOD THING I BROUGHT AN EXTRA PAIR!

I CONFESS, I NEVER IMAGINED ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD MIGHT BE SO COLD...

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

GODS!

THERE ARE PLACES COLDER STILL.

CHIBI (SIP)

CHIBI

OOH, ME TOO!

PLEASE!

I CAN WELL BELIEVE THE TALES THAT MY FOREBEARS WERE WIPED OUT BY A GREAT CHILL...

THEY MUST NOT'VE HAD ENOUGH WINE. TAKE A SIP AND WARM UP!

INDEED I DID.

COME TO THINK OF IT, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR GOAL WAS TO RAISE YOUR RANK AND BECOME A DRAGON?

I'M CERTAIN THE WORLD WOULD THINK ME BETTER THAN ONE WHO DESIRES TREASURE OR SACRIFICIAL MAIDENS!

A DRAGON WHO LOVES CHEESE, HUH?

SHARE A PIECE WITH ME?

TRUE, WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING SLAIN.

SO TELL ME, DO GIRLS REALLY TASTE THAT GOOD TO DRAGONS?

OR IS IT MORE OF A RITUAL THING?

MY GUESS? ABOUT SIX OUT OF TEN RAMPAGING DRAGONS ARE JUST LOOKING TO KILL TIME!

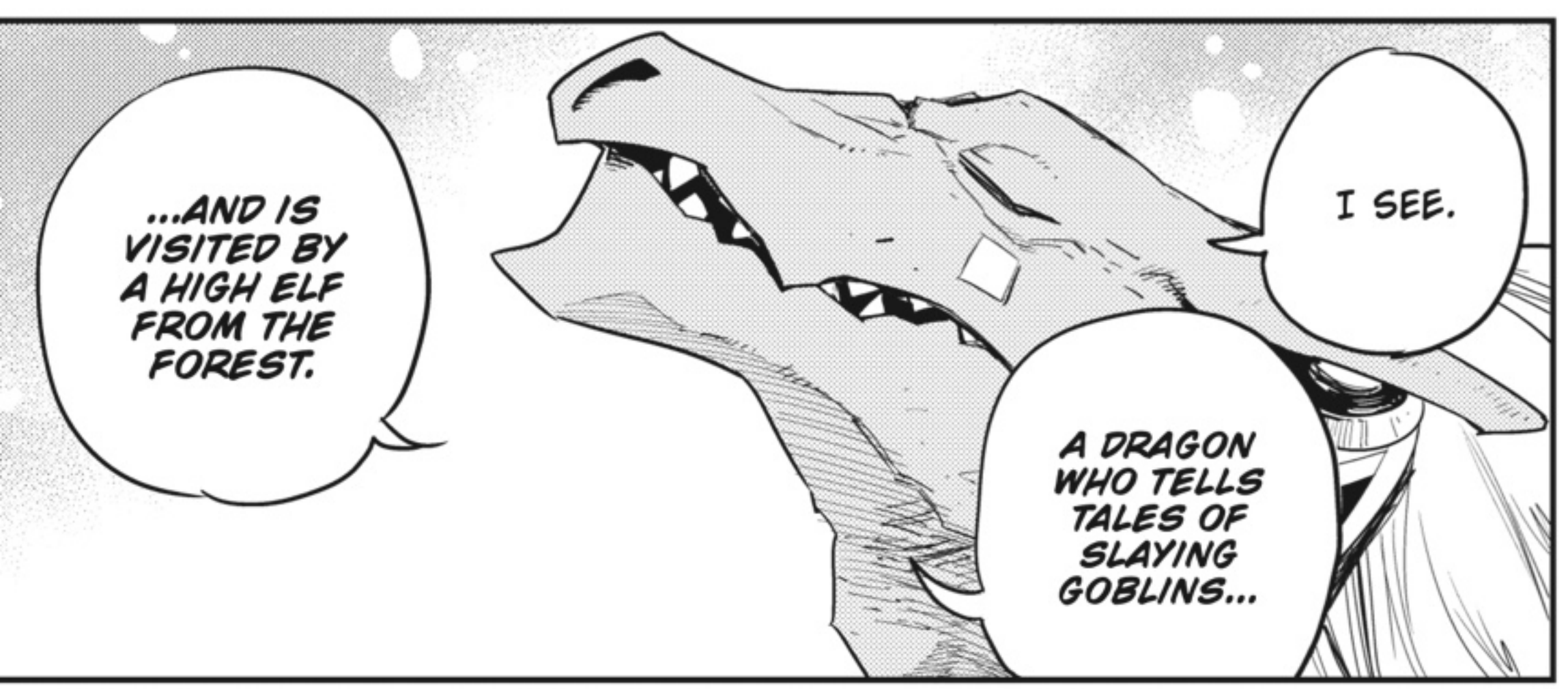
OH-HO...

OKAY! WHEN YOU BECOME AN IMMORTAL DRAGON...

...I'LL COME VISIT YOU!

IT'LL TAKE YOU A THOUSAND YEARS OR SO, RIGHT? SOUNDS UNBELIEVABLY BORING!

YOU'LL GO CRAZY WITHOUT ANY FRIENDS.



BUT ENOUGH. WE MUST SET ASIDE A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW SHALL WE MAKE OUR ATTACK, MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER?

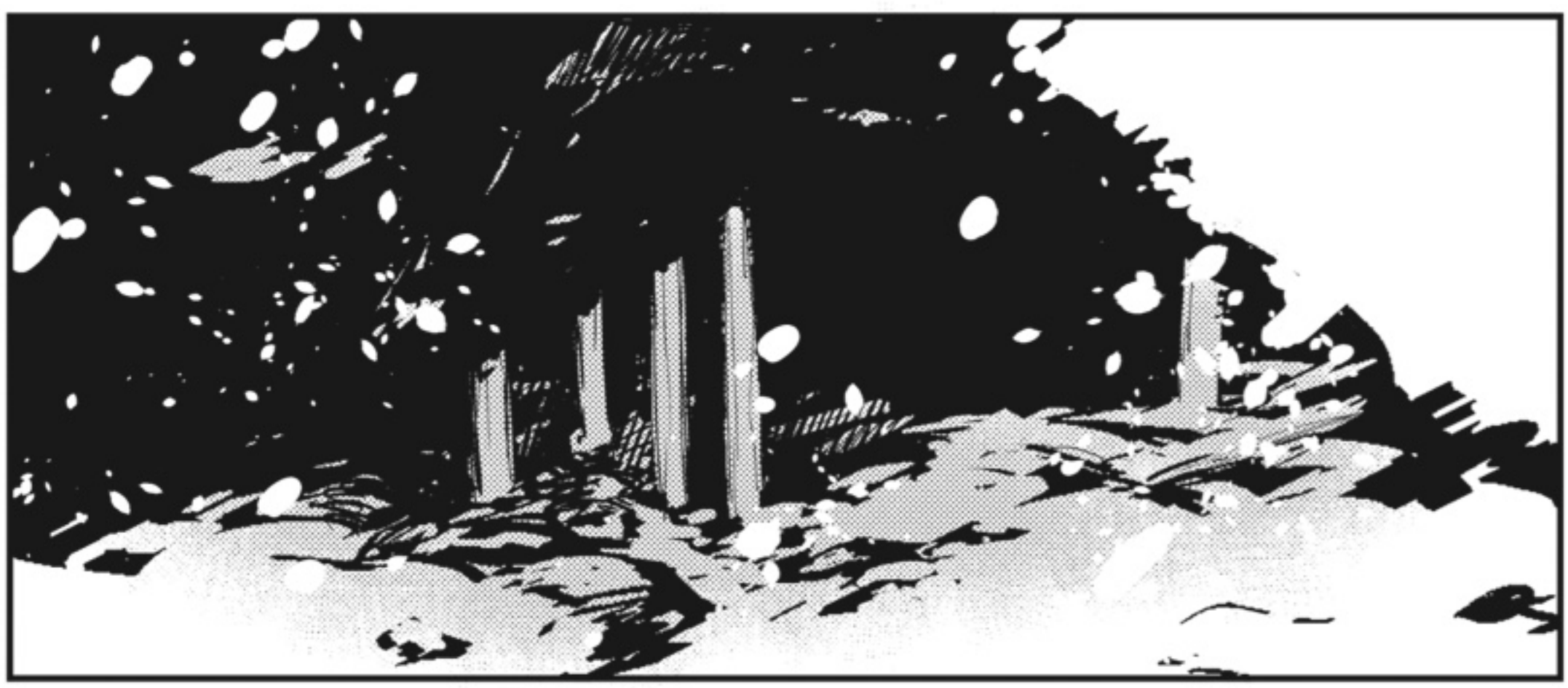
SOUNDS QUITE CONGENIAL!

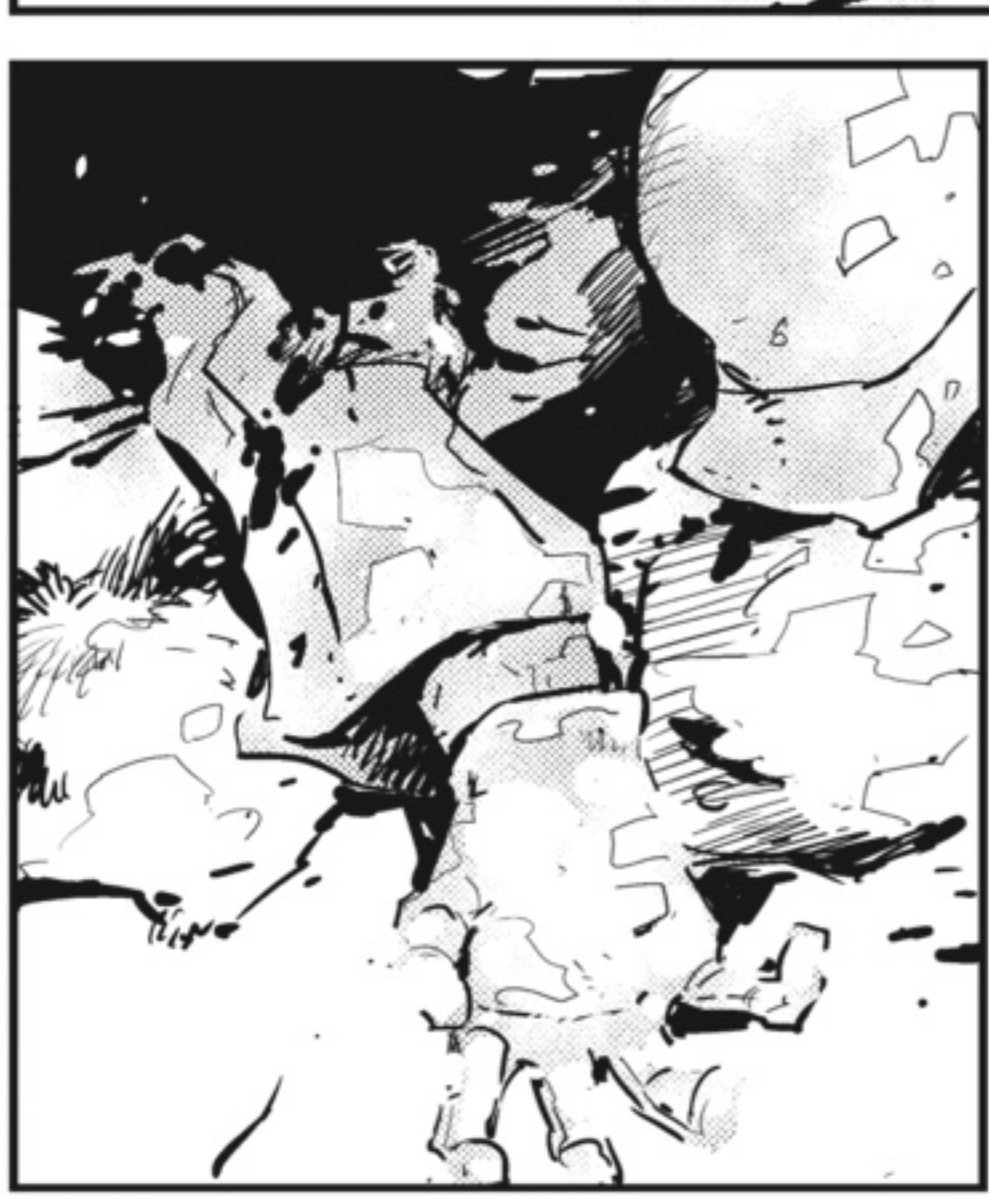
YEAH, RIGHT?

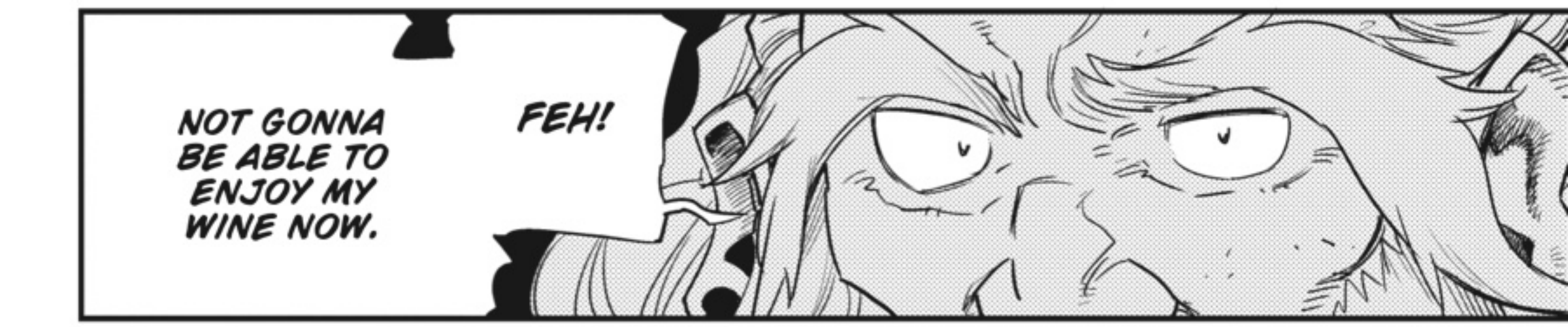
WARRIOR IN FRONT, THEN RANGER, WARRIOR-MONK, CLERIC, AND SPELL CASTER.

WE'LL DO WHAT WE USUALLY DO.

HMM.



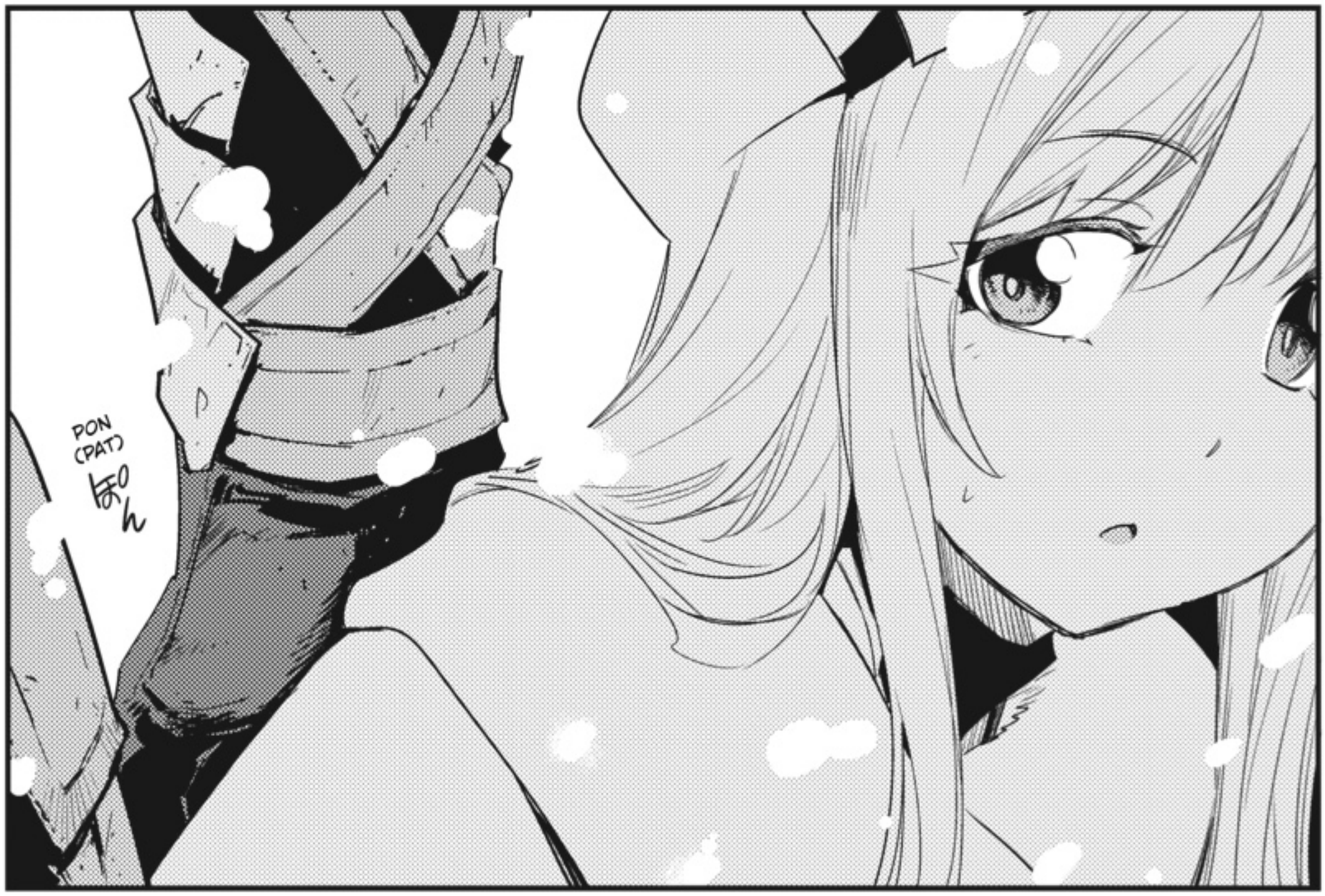



NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY WINE NOW.
FEH!

ARE YOU CALLING ME NOSY? I'M NOT NOSY... MOST OF THE TIME.
HEY.
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, LONG-EARS. DON'T POKE AROUND TOO HARD.
...NAW, NOTHING MUCH...
YOU FIND SOMETHING?

SHE'S NOT THERE, FAR AS I COULD SEE.
DID YOU FIND THE ONE WITH GOLDEN HAIR?

THEN IT SEEMS WE MAY STILL HAVE TIME.

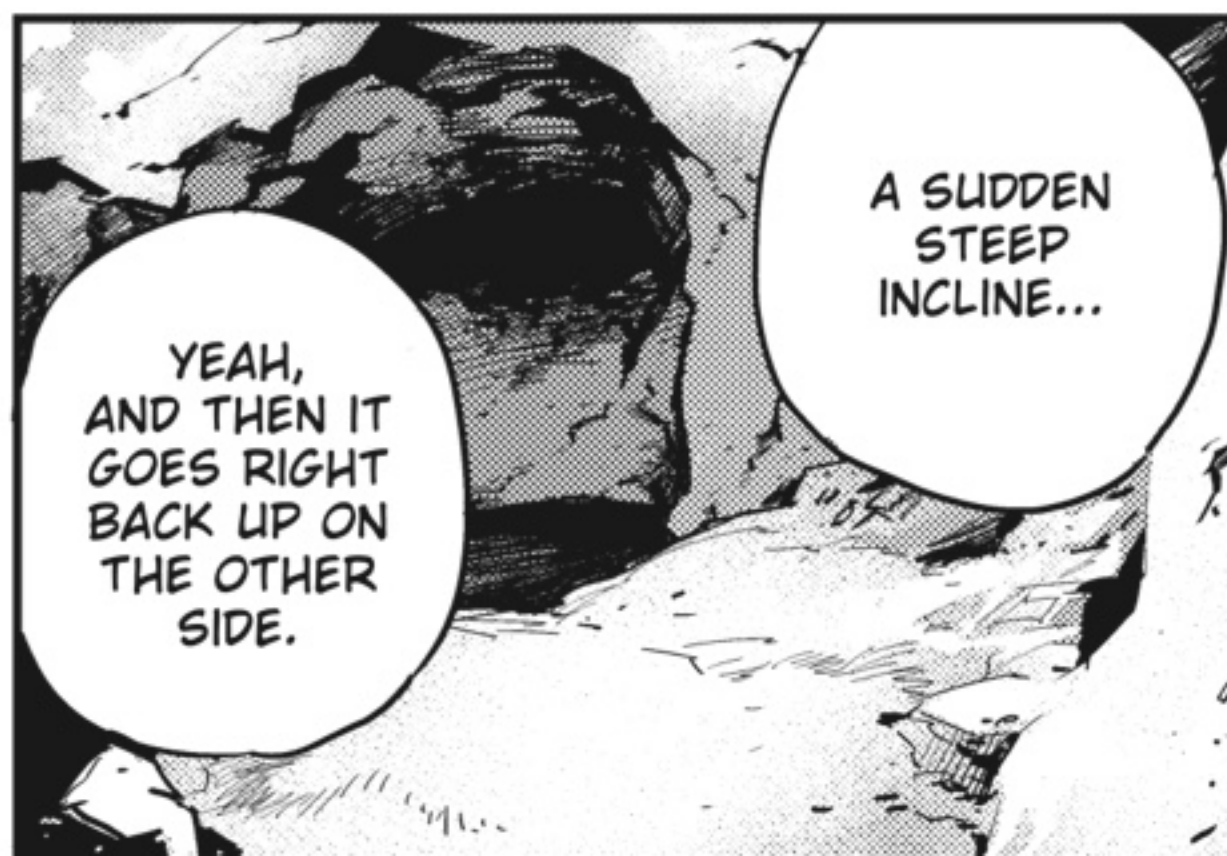

PON (PAT)

LET'S GO.
PUT ON YOUR SOCKS AND BOOTS.

A CATCH FOR RAIN-WATER AND SNOWMELT.

snow, water
KEEPS IT FROM GOING ANY FARTHER.
STOPS ANY PRECIPITATION THAT HAPPENS TO GET IN THE ENTRANCE.

WHO CAN SAY?
...ARE GOBLINS SMART ENOUGH TO DO THAT?


YEAH, AND THEN IT GOES RIGHT BACK UP ON THE OTHER SIDE.
A SUDDEN STEEP INCLINE...

IS THERE SOMETHING IN THEM?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T MISTAKENLY STEP IN ANY OF THE PUDDLES.

WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT.

SPIKES HIDDEN BELOW THE SURFACE.

TRAPS.

KO (TAP)

I'M SICK OF GETTING DIRTY ANYWAY.

AROMATIC SACHET TO COVER SMELL

YIKES! NASTY STUFF.

YEAH, SURE, I'M ON IT.

HYOI (VWIP)

HELP US KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE.

AH HA HA...
GETTING DIRTY IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE.
HAS A SACHET UNDER HER CLOTHES

LET'S DO OUR BEST...

IT'S ALL WE CAN DO.

MM.

I CAN'T BE SURE.

BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.

DOES THAT MEAN THERE ARE NO SHAMANS?

THEY COORDINATED AN ATTACK ON A VILLAGE AND DESTROYED A PARTY OF ADVENTURERS.

I CANNOT IMAGINE THERE ARE NO BRAINS BACKING THEM.

WOULD MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR US IF THEY DON'T HAVE SPELL CASTERS...

YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE A DARK ELF OR AN OGRE AROUND HERE?

...A DEMON.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO...

MAYBE EVEN...

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!

STOP SCARING THE GIRL WITH WHAT-IFS!

I THINK THAT MUST BE THEIR BEDCHAMBER. THE LEFT IS PROBABLY AN ARMORY OR A STOREHOUSE...

LOTS OF TRACKS HEADING TO THE RIGHT...

DO WE PROCEED IN THE NORMAL ORDER?

OR NOT?

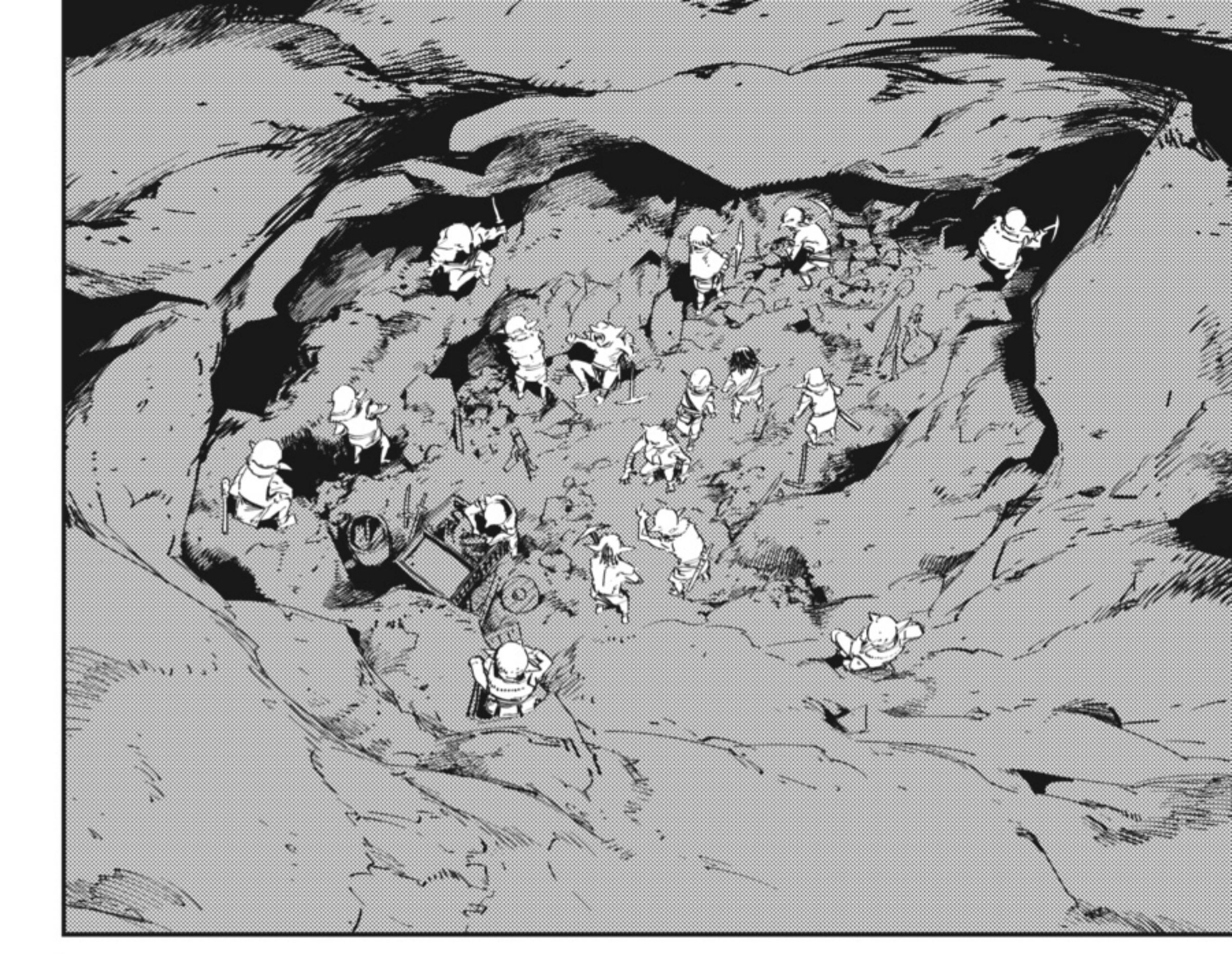
HOW LIKELY ARE THEY TO KNOW OUR METHODS?

WE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO STRIKE THE LAVATORY AS AN OPENING GAMBIT.

YES. IT'S INCONVENIENT WHEN ONE GETS AWAY BECAUSE IT WAS ON THE TOILET WHILE YOU ATTACKED.

...WHAT WOULD I DO?
IF I WERE A GOBLIN...

WE'LL HIT THE RIGHT FIRST.



O EARTH MOTHER, ABOUNDING IN MERCY, GRANT YOUR SACRED LIGHT TO WE WHO ARE LOST IN DARKNESS!

KA (FLASH)

HOLY LIGHT!

ARCHERS PRESENT.

SEVENTEEN OF THEM.

NO SPELL CASTERS.

NO HOBS.

LET'S GO.

BA (THASH)

BA

A BIT OF DUST MAY CAUSE NO SHOCK, BUT A THOUSAND MAKE A LOVELY ROCK!

COME OUT, YOU GNOMES, IT'S TIME TO WORK, NOW DON'T YOU DARE YOUR DUTY SHIRK—

FIRST BLOOD!

DO (THOCK)

STONE BLAST!

DO

DO

DO

TEN LEFT.

WE WILL MEET THEM HERE.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MORE OF THEM THAN THERE ARE OF US.

BAIIIN (SPLAT)

BA

BA (SHAK)

TEN.

DO (THOCK)

GAN (GONG)

THEY WILL RECOVER SOON.

THIRTEEN.

RIGHT!

O EARTH MOTHER, ABOUNDING IN MERCY, GRANT YOUR SACRED LIGHT TO WE WHO ARE LOST IN DARKNESS!

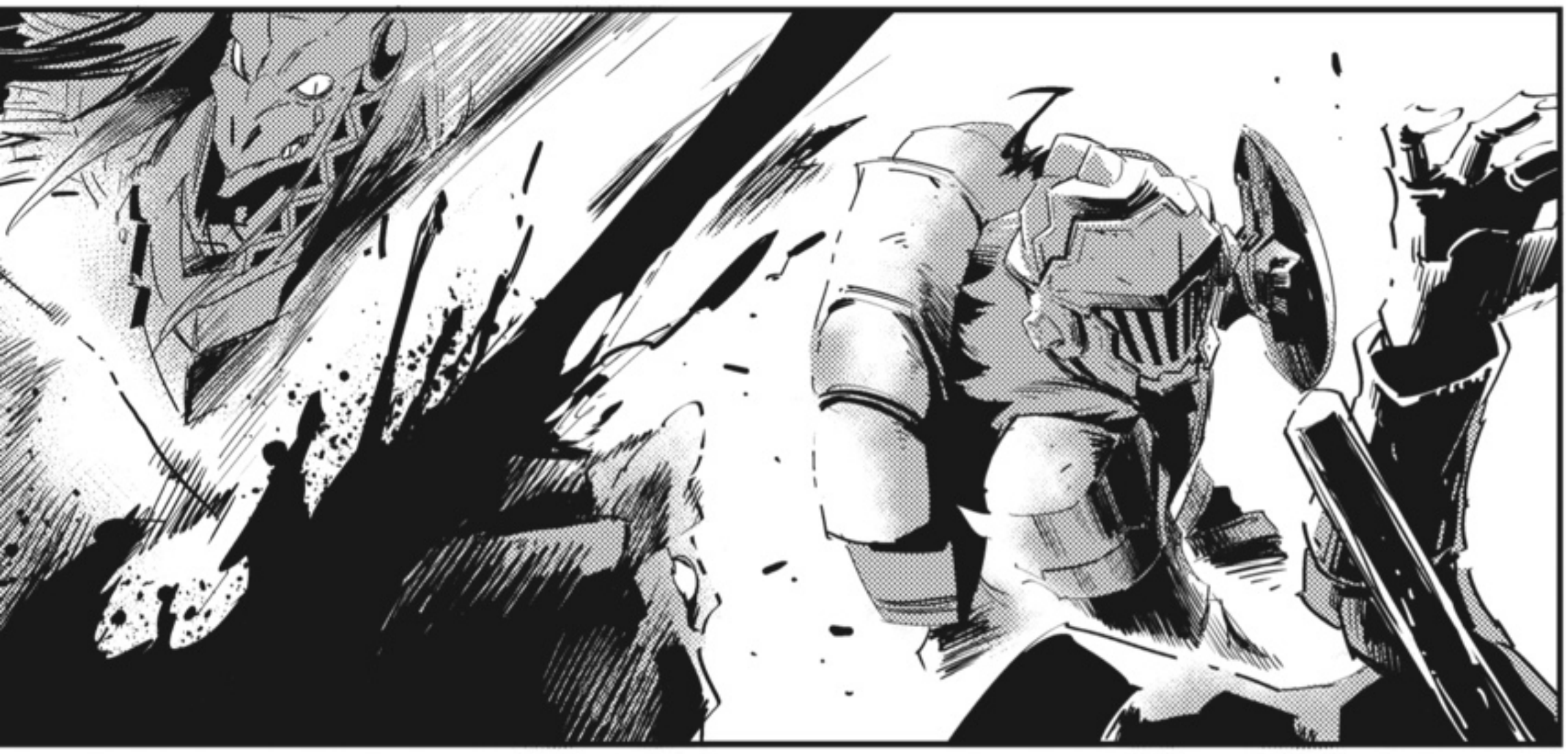
BYA! (FSH)

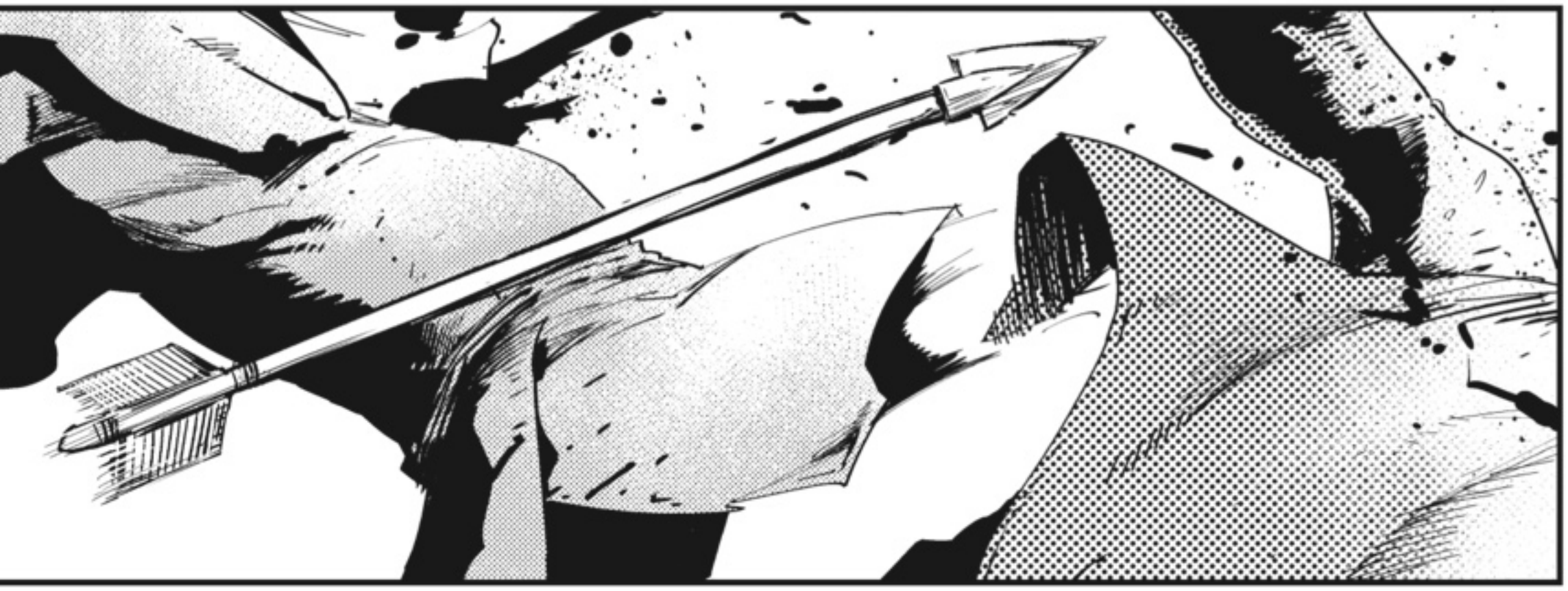
ドゴッ

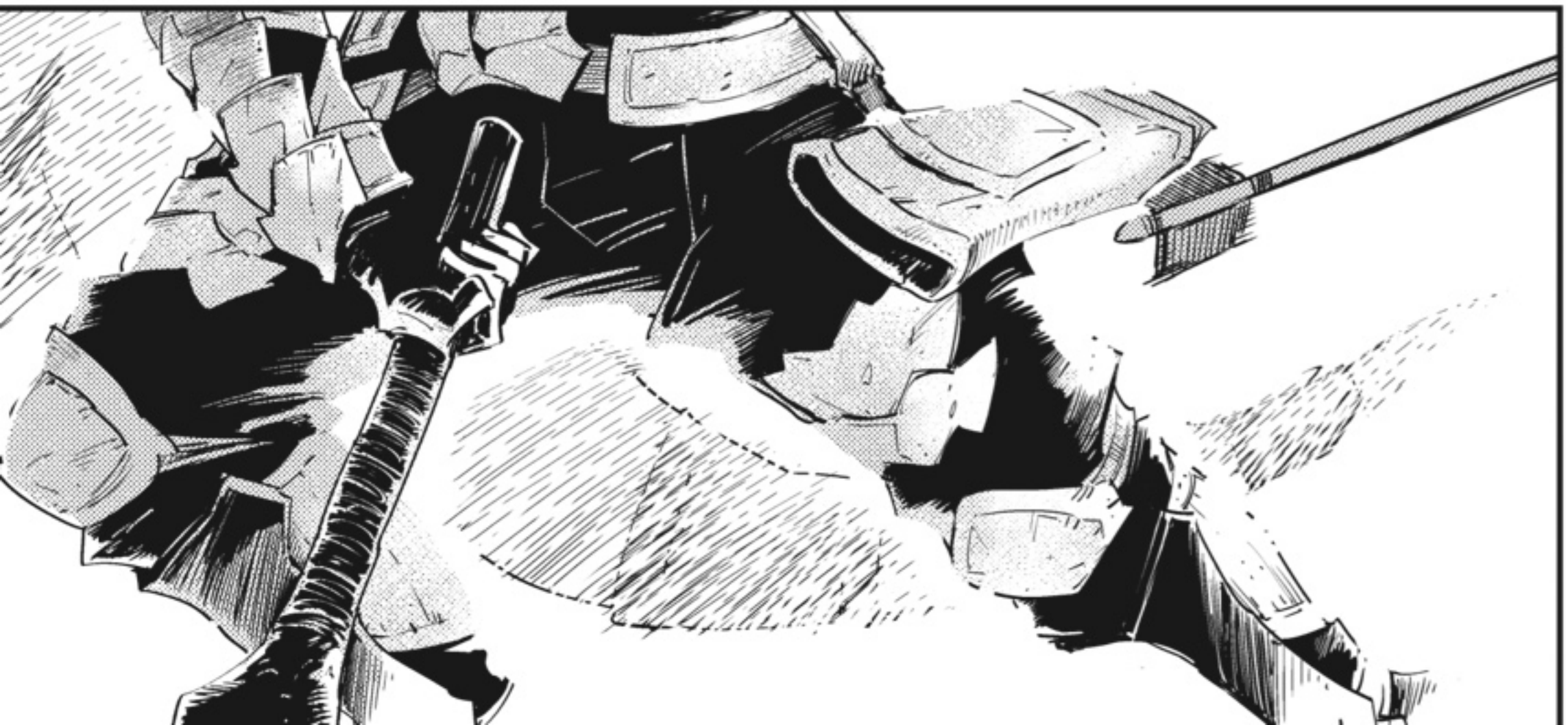
HOLY LIGHT!

PALI (SHINE)

!!







TO
(THOCK)

GO
(SLAM)

DO (SHAK)

I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST AID RIGHT AWAY ...!

I-I'M OKAY. SORRY... I MESSED UP...

IS THERE POISON ...?

...IS ALL OF THEM.

SEVENTEEN.

THAT...

FIRST, WE MUST REMOVE THE ARROW.

THANKS. DO IT.

GORO (ROLL)

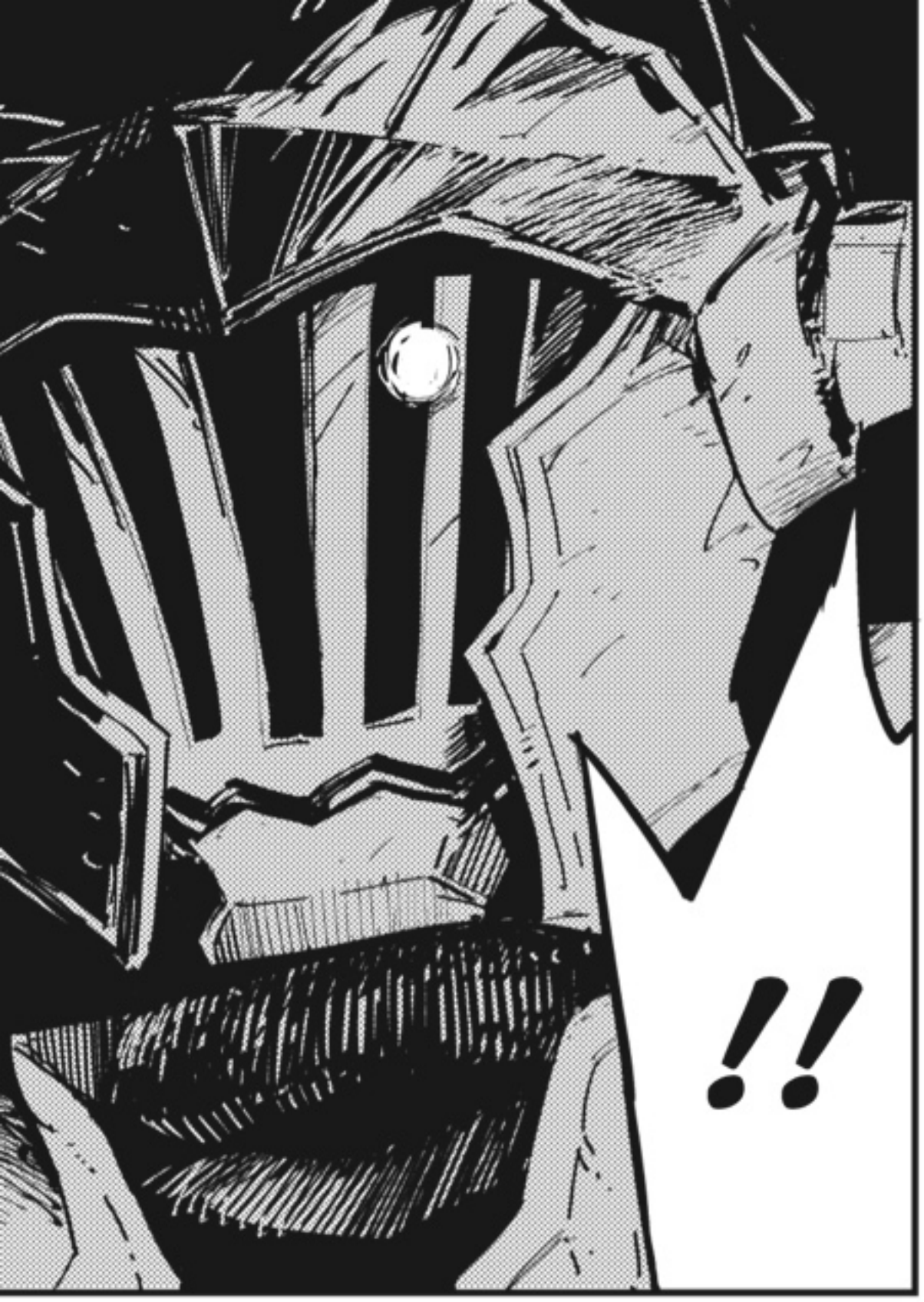
THIS ONE REACTED WHEN HE HEARD THE CHANT A SECOND TIME.

HE MAY ONLY BE PRETENDING TO BE DEAD...

GU (SHOVE)

...HRM.

THIS SCAR...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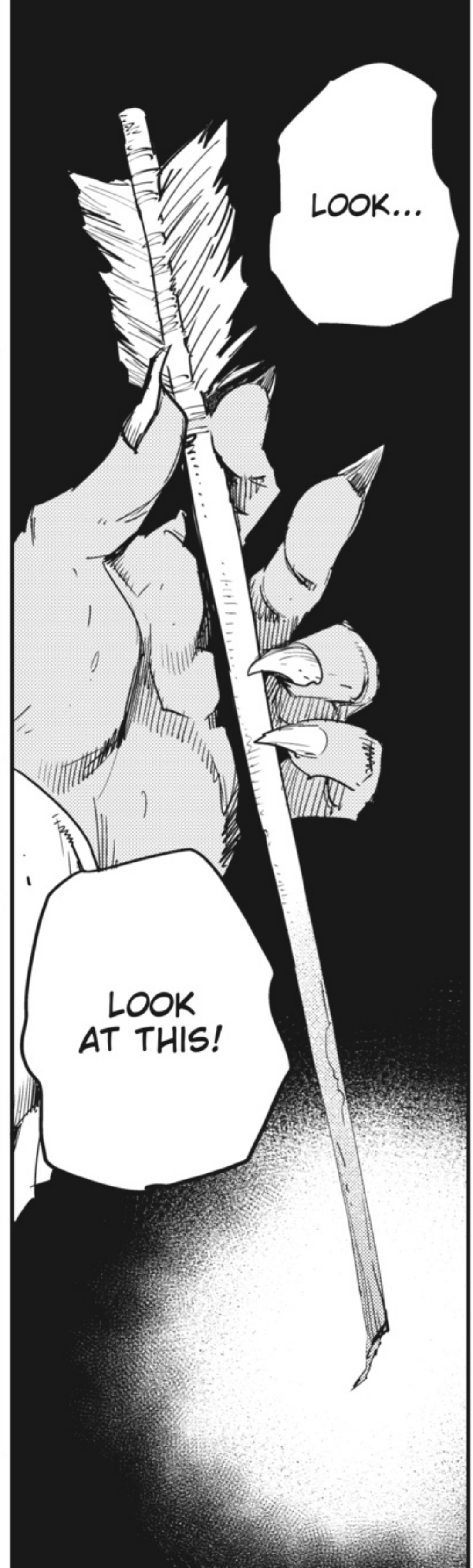

LOOK...
LOOK AT THIS!

THEY LEARNED FROM THAT...?

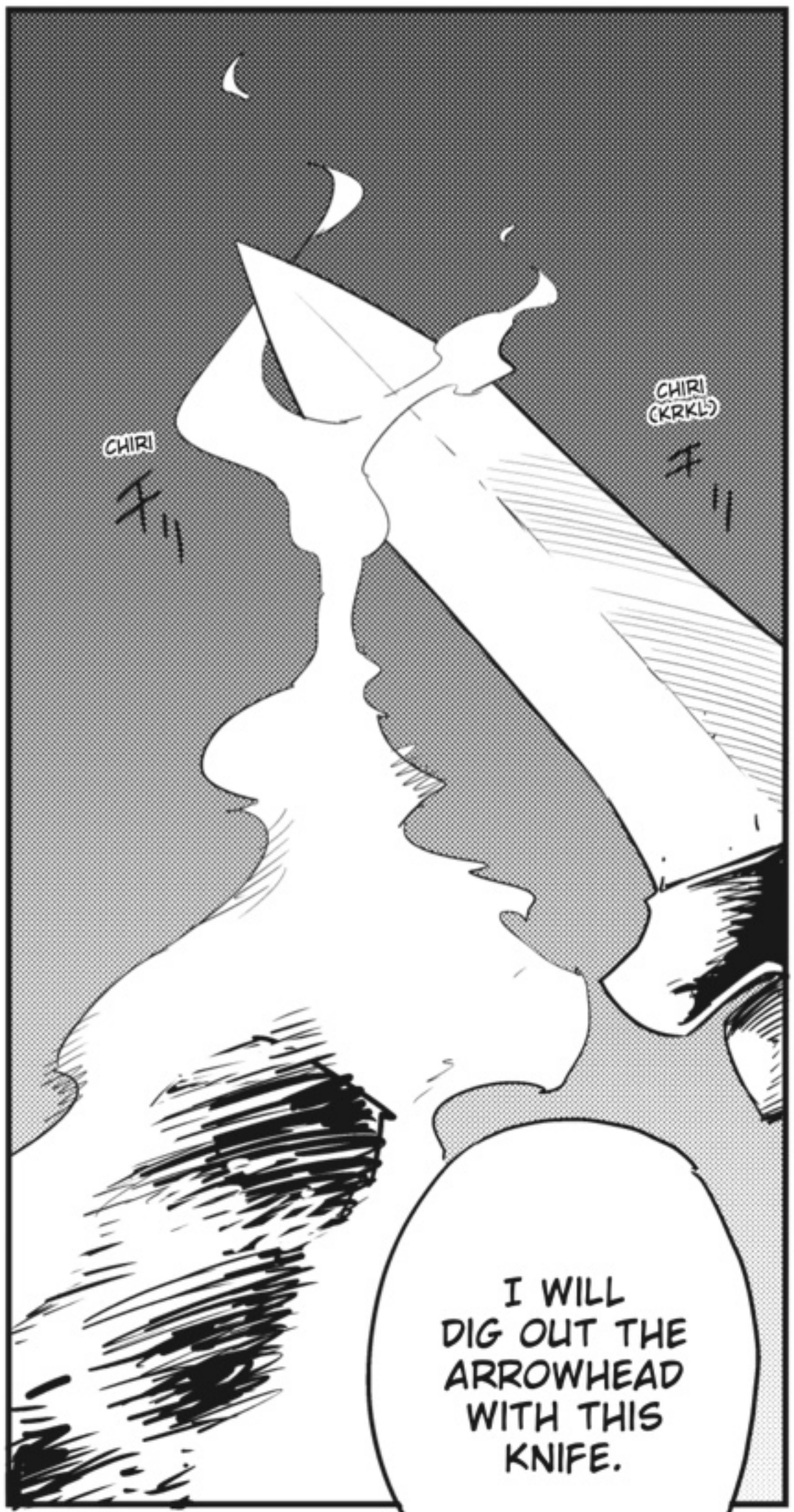
CHAPTER 44

ANY SIGNS OF POISON?
FOR THE MOMENT, I DON'T THINK SO.

DOES IT HURT?
KEEP PRESSURE ON THE WOUND. IT WILL STOP THE BLEEDING.
Y-YEAH, GOT IT.
BRIEFLY, AT LEAST.

AND MY REFRESH ONLY ACCELERATES THE BODY'S OWN RESTORATIVE ABILITIES.

MY HEALING MIRACLES CLOSE WOUNDS, SO THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD WITH THE ARROWHEAD STILL INSIDE...



BEARD-CUTTER TOLD YOU HOW IT WORKS.

IF YOU DON'T GET TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY, THAT LEG WILL ROT CLEAN OFF.

N-NO WAY!

LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE GET HOME... THEN WE CAN—!

COME ON, EVERYONE, YOU'RE SCARING HER...

GUH.

GUH...

GUH...

URK...

WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REATTACH IT AFTER THAT.

.....

WAAH...

YOU REALLY WON'T MAKE IT HURT, RIGHT...?

WINE.

THAT IS MY INTENTION. LET ME SEE THE WOUND.

AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE IT AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.

I CANNOT PROMISE ANYTHING.

DOKU (GLUB)

DOKU

HRRRGH!

KEEP THE CLOTH IN YOUR MOUTH. YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE.

BUT I WILL TRY.

I JUST WANNA ASK ONE MORE TIME...

YOU WON'T MAKE IT HURT, RIGHT .....?

ZU
(THRUST)

ZU
(DIG)

GORGOSAURUS, BEAUTIFUL THOUGH WOUNDED, MAY I PARTAKE IN THE HEALING IN YOUR BODY!

DONE.

HFFF...

HFFF...

REFRESH.

Y—

YEAH...

CAN YOU MOVE IT?

CAN YOU USE YOUR BOW?

UGH...

HUMAN FIRST AID IS AWFULLY VIOLENT...

ARE YOU OKAY...?

IT'S STILL THROBBING.

I DAMN WELL CAN.

...BUT THERE ARE MORE CHAMBERS DEEPER WITHIN.

THE WISE MOVE WOULD BE TO TURN BACK...

WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE THEM.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

WE'RE COMING WITH YOU, AND THAT'S THAT.

I AM NOT CONFIDENT IN OUR REMAINING NUMBER OF SPELLS.

A FAIR POINT.

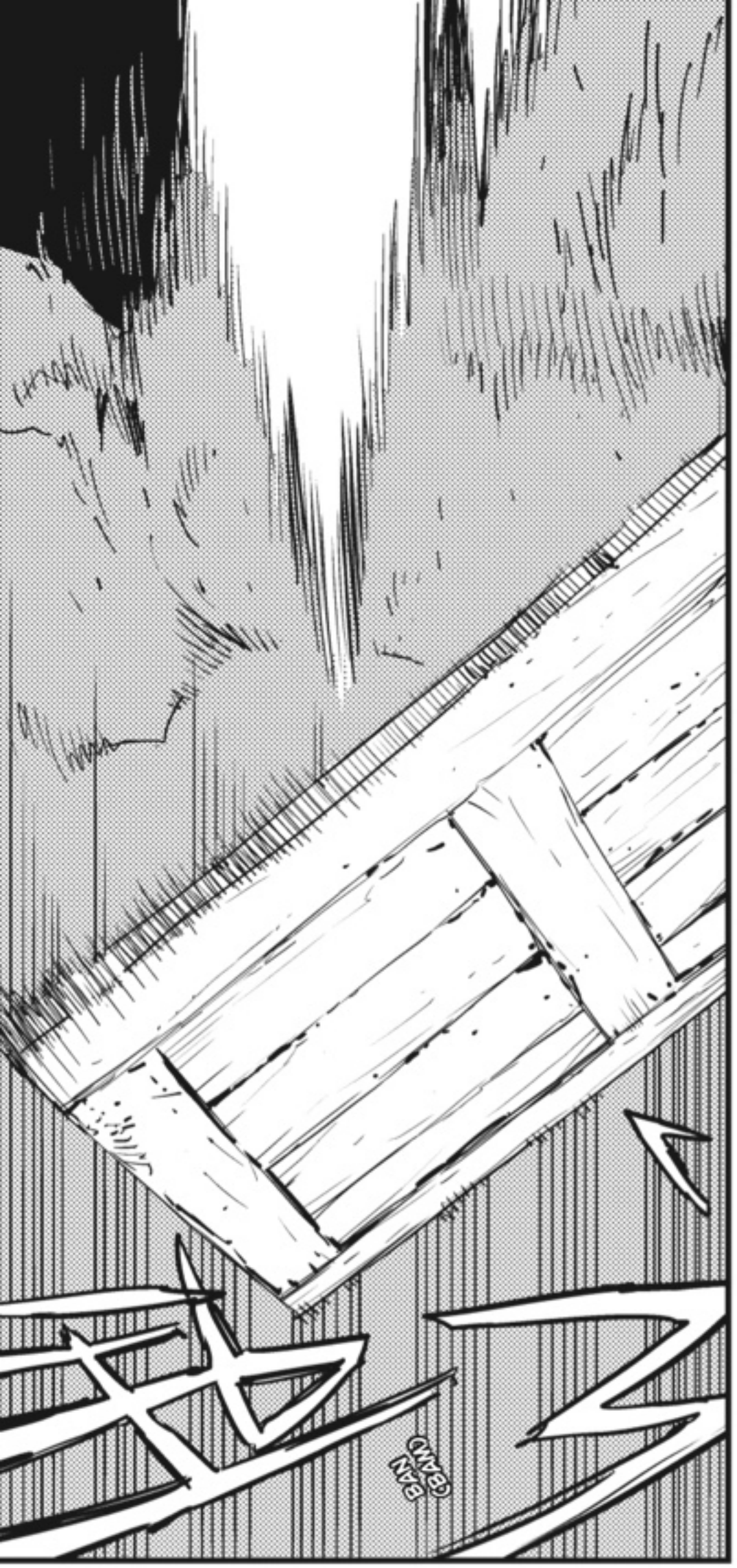
I COULD STAY BEHIND BY MYSELF AND—

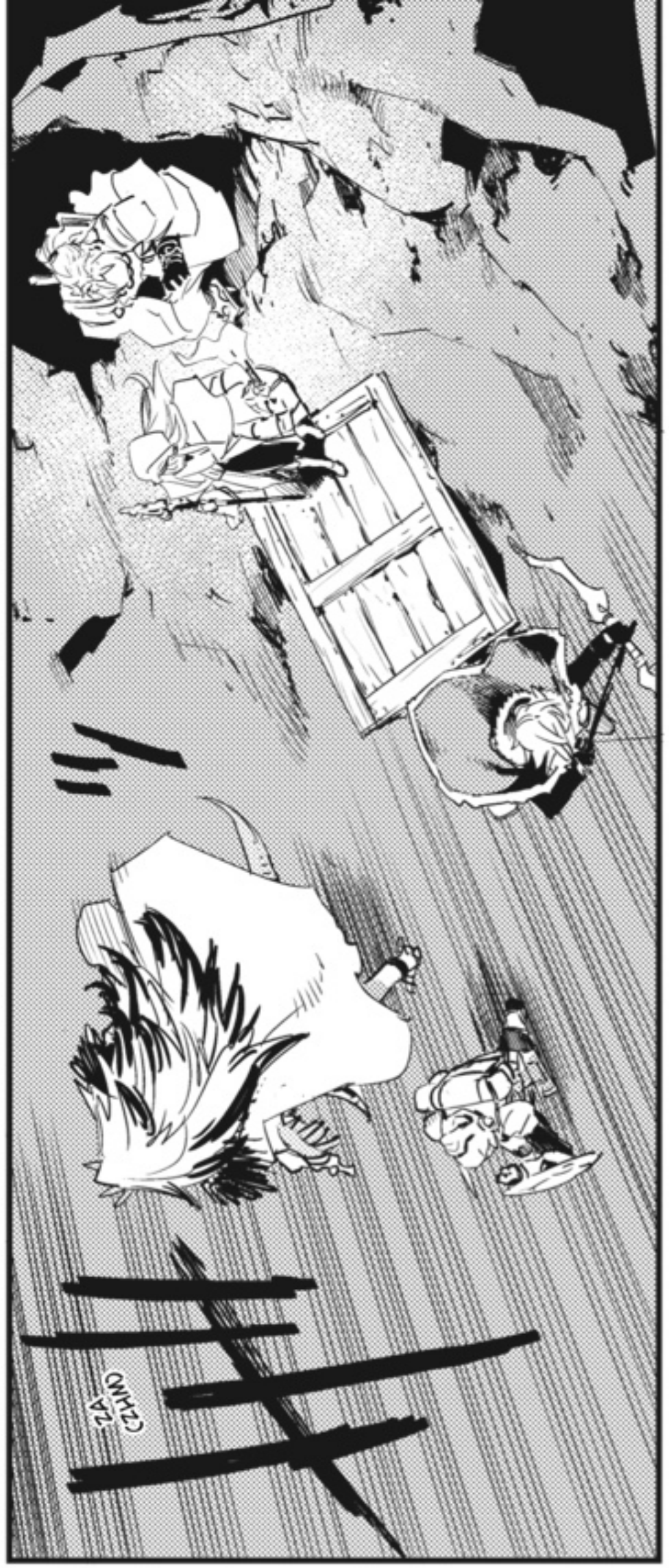
THEY COPIED THE ARROW TRICK.

AND THAT ARROW WOUND HAD BEEN HEALED WITH A MIRACLE.

THOUGH CORNERED, THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO FLEE.

I DON'T LIKE IT.


BAN
(BANG)

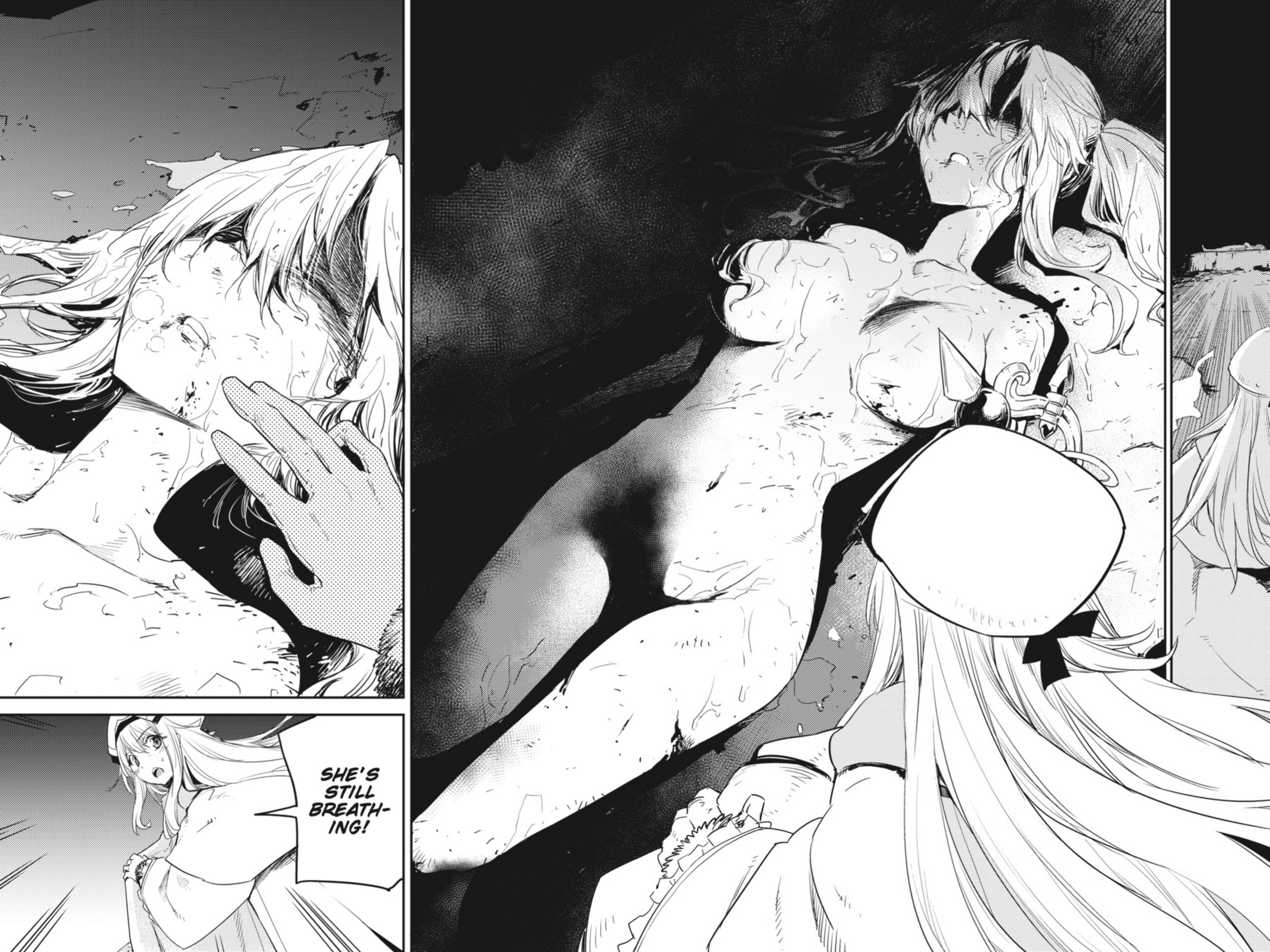

ZA-
(ZAMU)

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
THERE'S NO ONE HERE...

OH ...!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DINING AREA OR AN ARMORY...
ARE THESE MOUNDS OF EARTH SUPPOSED TO BE SEATS?

THAT ROCK UP THERE...
IT'S...
...ALMOST LIKE... AN ALTAR OF SOME SORT...?


SHE'S STILL BREATH-ING!

QUEST COMPLETE, I GUESS.

...I WONDER IF A PRIEST OF THE EVIL SECT WAS HERE.

OR PERHAPS THESE RUINS HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY A YEAR...

THIS SOIL'S FRESH. IT'S BEEN DUG OUT RECENTLY.

NOPE.

IS THAT THE BRAND?
SO IT SEEMS.
BUT IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A GOBLIN TOTEM.
THAT'S AWFUL...

IT'S THE SYMBOL OF A GOD.

THE DEITY OF EXTERNAL KNOWLEDGE...

THE GOD OF WISDOM.

I THINK... IT'S THE GREEN MOON.

HE HOLDS THAT THE ADVERSITY FACED WHILE VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH IS ITSELF CRUCIAL KNOWLEDGE.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE GOD OF KNOWLEDGE, WHO CONTROLS INTELLECT.

IT'S SAID THAT THIS WORLD IS JUST A GAME BOARD TO THE MANY GODS WHO GATHER AROUND IT, WATCHING OVER US.

AS SUCH, HE GIVES NOT FACTS, BUT INSPIRATION.

NO...

...DOES NOT GUIDE US TO KNOWLEDGE.

THE GOD OF WISDOM, THOUGH...

"MAYBE THE WORLD WILL JUST END."

HE IS A GOD WHO GIVES HIS KNOWLEDGE, FREELY AND INDISCRIMINATELY...

...TO ALL WHO SEEK IT.

...THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW...

BARA (SCATTER)

BUT IF THE EYE OF THE GOD OF WISDOM FALLS UPON YOU...

THAT FAINT, FOOLISH GRUMBLE OF DISCONTENT...

...IS SOMETHING ANYONE MIGHT CASUALLY THINK...

...ONLY TO FORGET IN THE NEXT BREATH.

...A WAY TO DESTROY THE WORLD ENTERS YOUR MIND...

...AND YOU SET OFF ON YOUR TASK.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT A DARK ELF OR A HIGH-LEVEL EVIL PRIEST?

BUT A GOBLIN WHO CAN USE MIRACLES...?

"MERCIFUL AGENTS OF CHAOS"... SUCH THINGS DO NOT EXIST.

HELL, THEY'D HAVE TO BE A REAL GOBLIN-BRAIN THEMSELVES TO COME UP WITH THAT IDEA.

LEADING A BUNCH OF GOBLINS AROUND JUST TO LOOT EVERYTHING IN SIGHT...

HMM? SURELY NOT.

...AHEM.

HEH! YOU'RE EVEN TALKING YOURSELF OUT OF THAT IDEA.

WELL, MAYBE... SOME BANDITS FOUND RELIGION AND...STARTED WORSHIPING THE GOBLINS...

...AND IS A FOLLOWER OF EVIL.

A WARRIOR-PRIEST...?

...TO ATTACK PEOPLE...

...COMMANDS GOBLINS...

A GOBLIN PRIEST...?

...HEALS GOBLINS...

IT THINKS LIKE A GOBLIN...

SOME WEEKS BEFORE

THAT'S GOT TO BE THEIR NEST!

A GOBLIN PALADIN.

GUSHA (CLUTCH)

SOMEONE WHO COMMANDS AN ARMY AGAINST HERETICS IS—

WE'RE GOING TO STARVE THOSE GOBLINS OUT!

OKAY, EVERYONE READY?

IF THE GOBLINS ARE ATTACKING THE VILLAGE, THAT HAS TO MEAN ONE THING.

DO (THOCK)

...BUT I'M AFRAID BOREDOM IS GONNA KILL ME DEADER THAN ANY GOBLIN.

SURE, IT'S THE SAFEST METHOD...

BUT FORGET BOREDOM— THIS COLD'S THE HARD PART.

I LIKE IT. LOTS OF TIME TO RELAX.

HEY, THAT'S MY BLANKET!

I'M JUST BORROWING IT FOR A BIT.

C'MON, DON'T BE SO STINGY.

GABU
(MUNCH)

WE'VE BEEN RATIONING OURSELVES FOR DAYS NOW IN THIS DAMN FREEZING COLD.

DON'T I KNOW IT.

DON'T EAT TOO MUCH, NOW.

OUR OWN SUPPLIES ARE GETTING MORE THAN A LITTLE LOW.

I'D SURE LOVE A BITE OF SOMETHING MORE FILLING THAN RABBIT.

I WAS HOPING WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CATCH A LITTLE MORE GAME, BUT...

YOU JUST GET SOME MORE REST.
DON'T WORRY.
PRETTY SURE IT'S MY TURN TO STAND GUARD.

...FOR AGREEING TO MY SIEGE PLAN.

THANK YOU...

YEAH... I GUESS.

I KNOW YOU THOUGHT IT WASN'T DIRECT ENOUGH.

IF THEY DID, THEY MIGHT MULTIPLY AND COME BACK TO HARM THE VILLAGE AGAIN.

GOBLINS ARE STUPID AND WEAK CREATURES...

...BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE, AND WE DON'T WANT ANY TO GET AWAY.

YEAH.

IT'LL WORK JUST FINE. I KNOW IT.

THIS WAY, WE CAN BE SURE WE'VE DESTROYED THE WHOLE NEST.

AND WE CAN FINISH THE QUEST WITHOUT ANY OF US GETTING HURT.

THAT WAS MY THINKING ANYWAY.

JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

IS THE DRINKING WATER READY YET? MY THROAT IS DRY AS DUST OVER HERE!

!

EATING SNOW ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR STOMACH.

YOU HAVE TO MELT IT, OR...

FUEL'S GETTING LOW TOO.
WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT, DON'T EAT IT.
... AGAIN.
GRILLED RABBIT.

OR DO WE GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO RESUPPLY?

DO WE GIVE UP NOW?

WE NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR NEXT MOVE.

WE'LL BE LAUGHING-STOCKS.

...WITHOUT EVEN FIGHTING THEM?

YOU THINK WE CAN RUN HOME...

WE'RE FACING GOBLINS.

BUT FOR US TO KEEP GOING LIKE THIS...

...SOMEONE NEEDS TO HEAD DOWN THERE AND FINAGLE MORE SUPPLIES.

"HUNT THIS! GATHER THAT!"

RIGHT NOW, I'M THE ONLY ONE DOING ANY WORK AROUND HERE.

I WAS AGAINST THIS PLAN FROM THE START.

...RIGHT. I AGREE.

YEAH.

I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

IT'D BE ABSURD IF WE CAME HERE TO STARVE 'EM OUT BUT ENDED UP STARVING OURSELVES.

YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GO.

ANY THOUGHTS, MONK?

LOGICAL, SURE!

SINCE THAT'S OBVIOUSLY THE MOST LOGICAL CHOICE.

YOU JUST DIDN'T WANT TO DIRTY YOUR PETTICOATS GOING INTO SOME FILTHY GOBLIN NEST, DID YOU?

I'M GOING TO GO GET READY.
I'LL LEAVE THE MOMENT I'M PREPARED.

IT WAS LOGICAL.
MY PLAN WASN'T A FAILURE.
JUST LIKE IT'S LOGICAL FOR ME...
...TO GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ALONE.

IT'S THE RIGHT CHOICE.

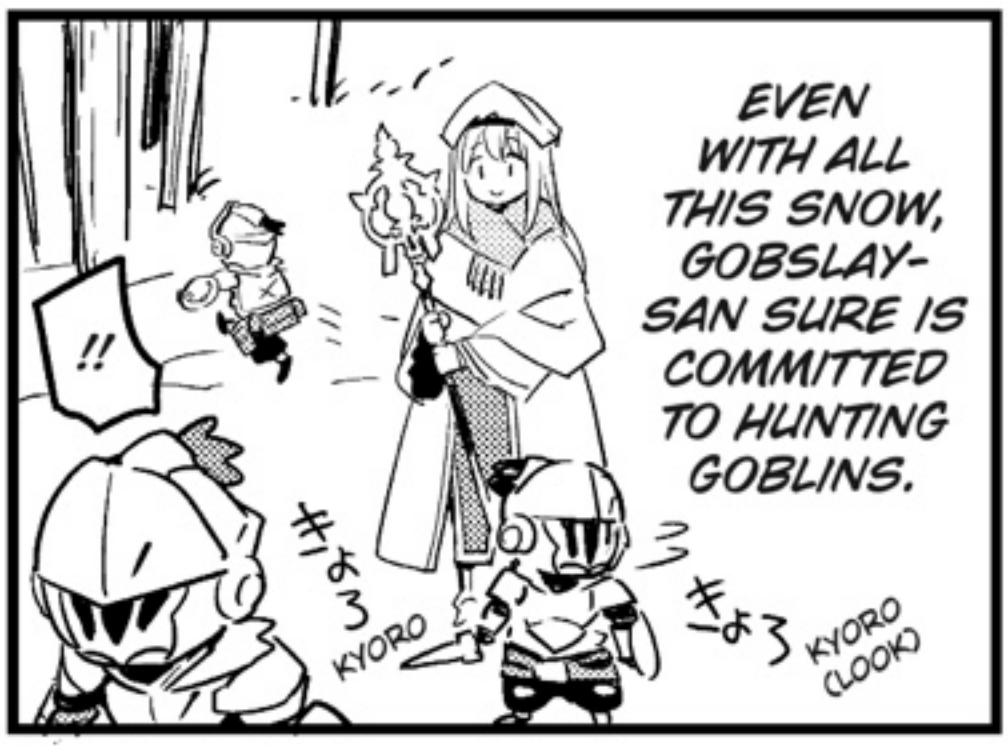
IT'S THE BEST WAY.

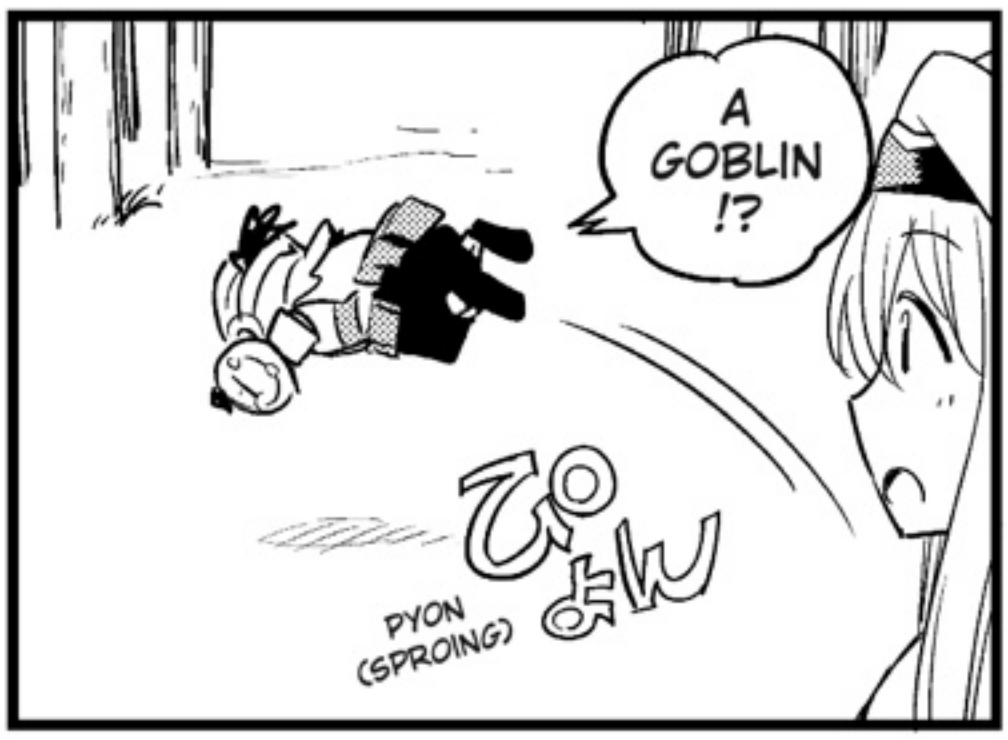
I'M SURE OF IT.

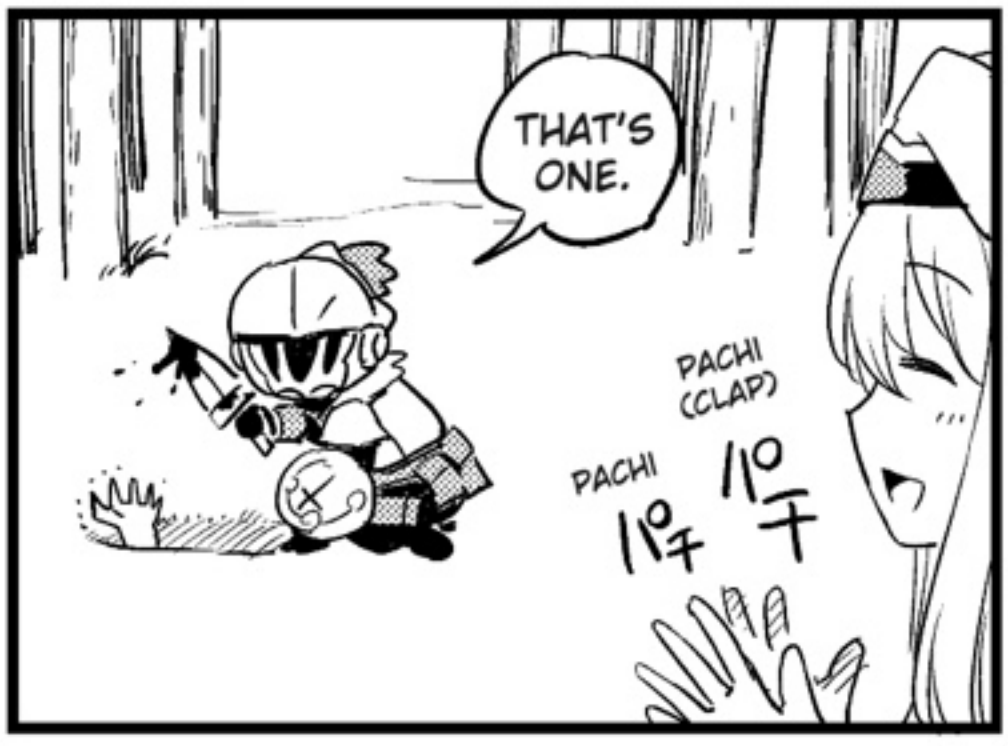
GOBLIN SLAYER 9 THE END

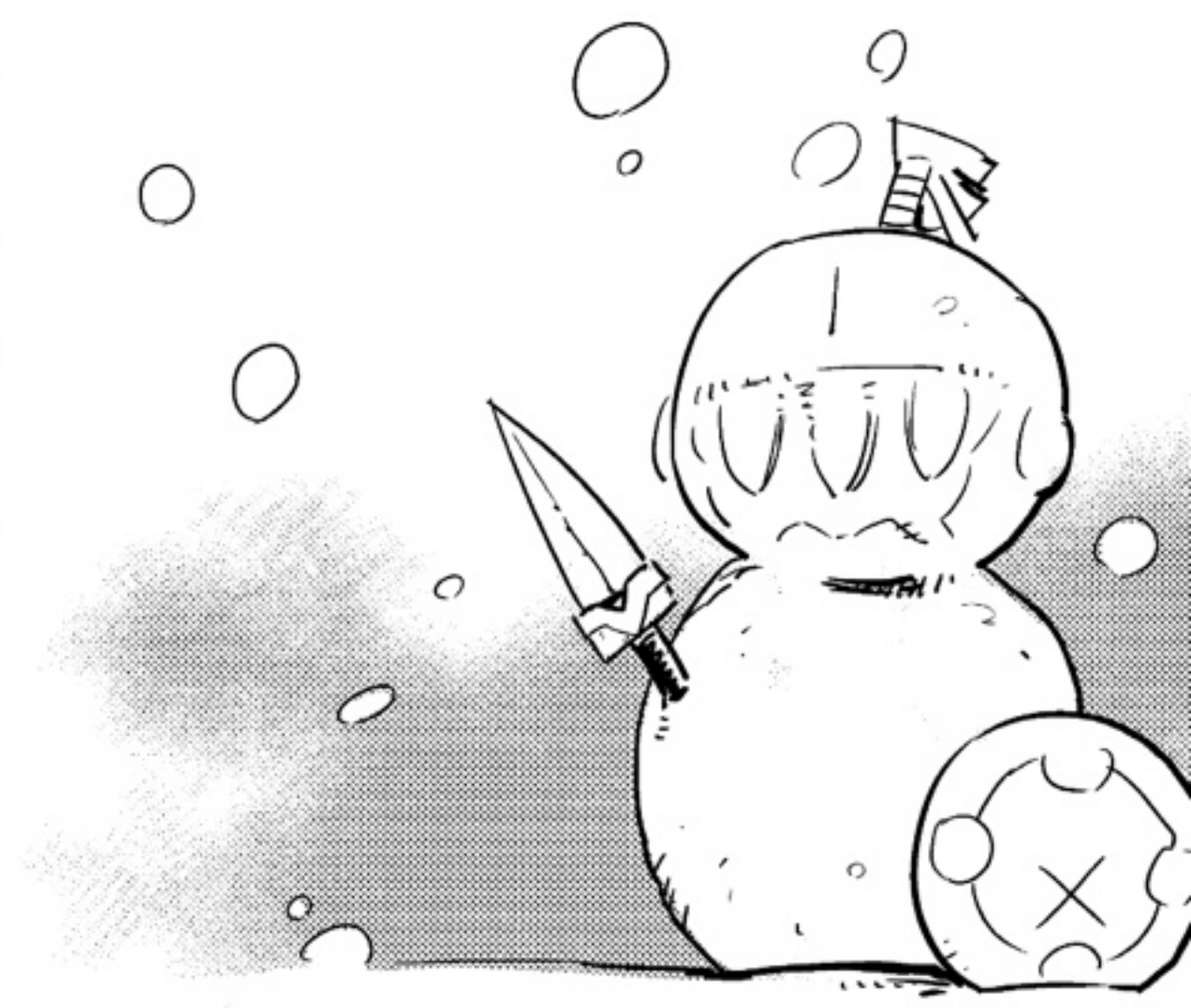
GOB SLAY-SAN

HUNTING



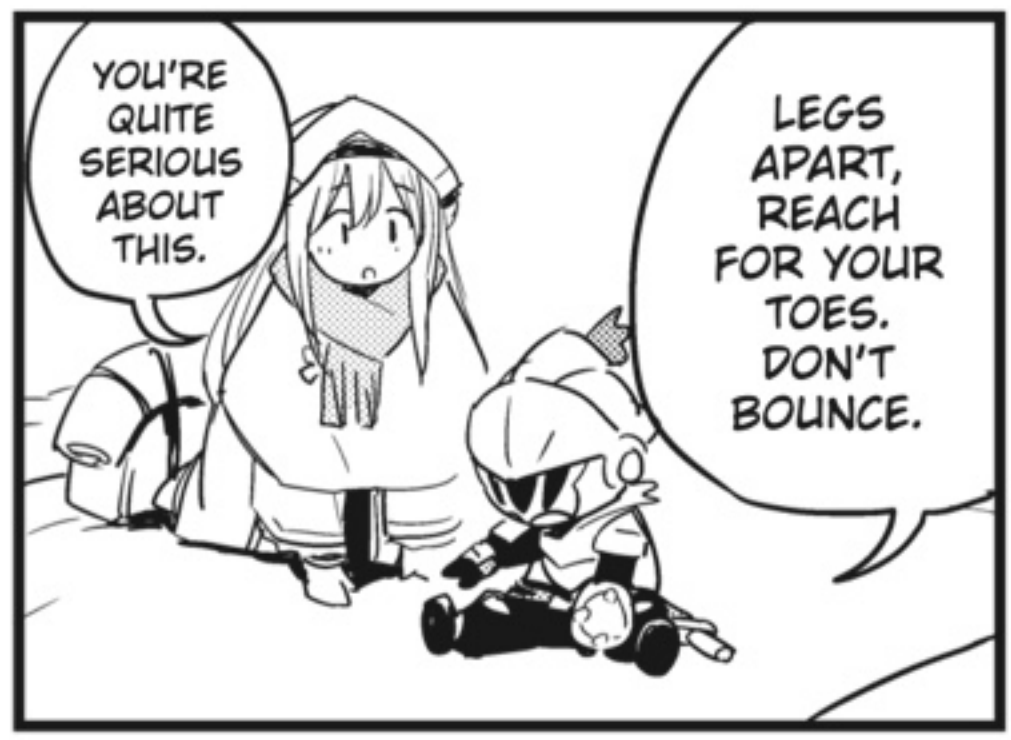


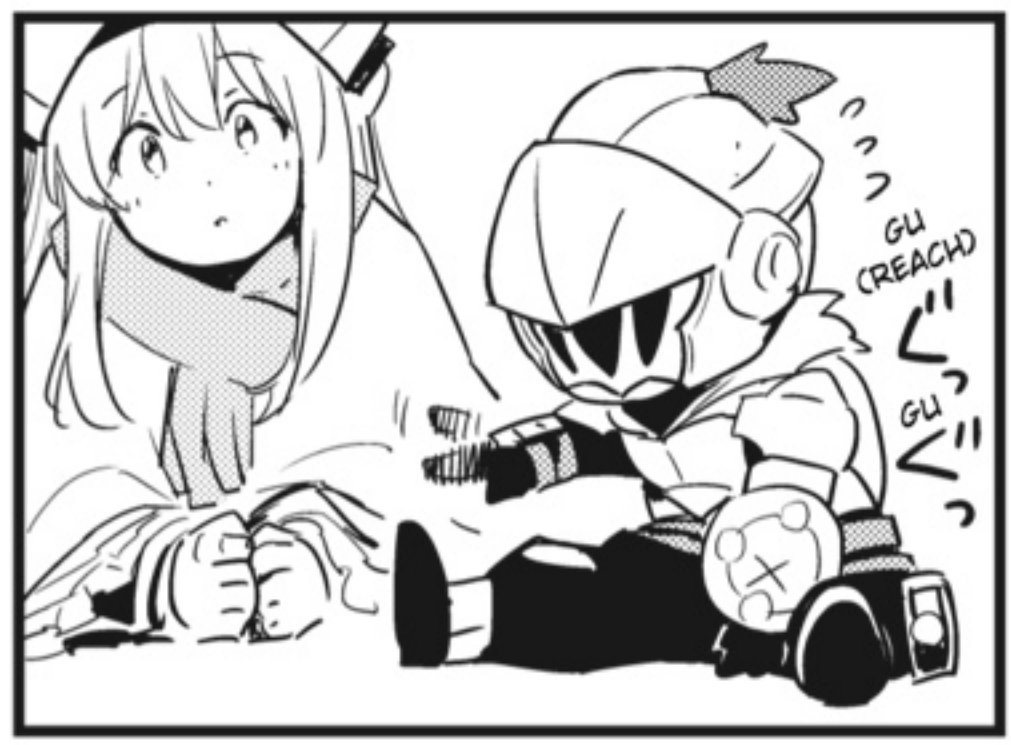


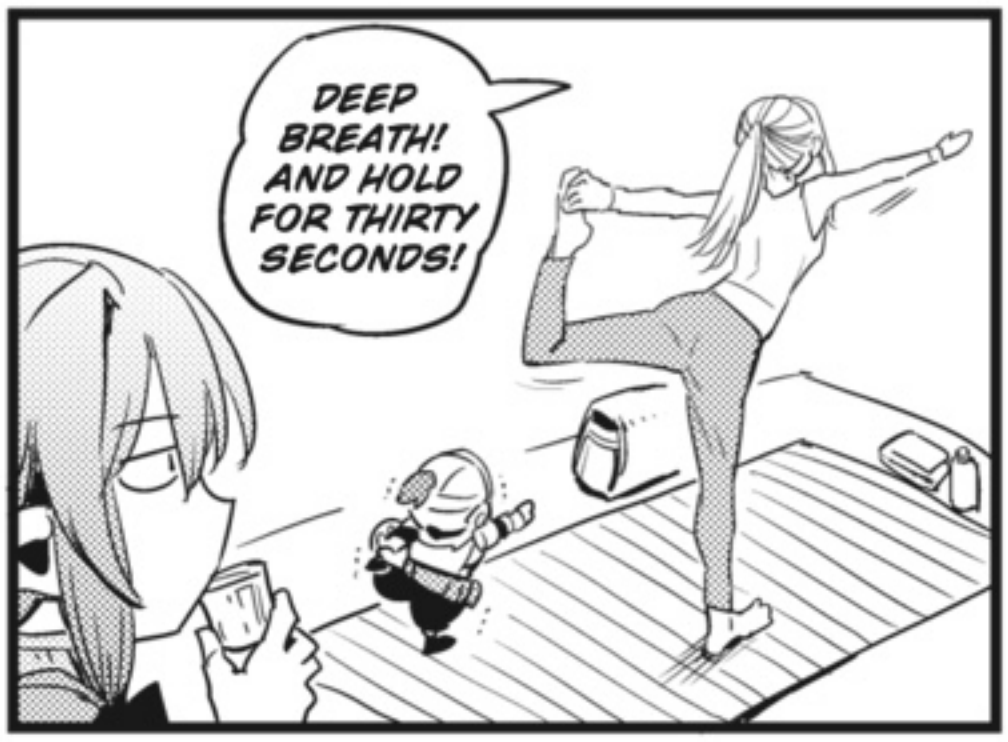


VERY ATHLETIC

IT'S A STRETCH







Turn to the back of the book for a short story by Kumo Kagyu!

GOBLIN SLAYER

GOBLIN SLAYER

a snowy mountain. She had no idea what might await her there, what might happen...

"Hee-hee...!"

As there was nobody around from whom she might need to hide it, Priestess let out a little chuckle at how fun that sounded.

hands, ears, and tail made her a little jealous. They were so cute, too. The Commandments strictly forbade high fashion or luxurious indulgence, but just a small something...

Surely, even the honored Earth Mother would be kind enough to look the other way...!

The thought gave her a smidgen of courage to indulge. That covered cold-weather gear and food. A map and other minor necessities could be acquired on-site, so that left only...

"Oh!"

"Hmm?" Padfoot Waitress perked up her ears quizzically, and Priestess quickly waved a hand to signal there was nothing wrong.

Oh, for—! Gosh. Silly me, forgetting the most important thing.

"The Adventurer's Toolkit..."

Never leave home without it!

She clenched her fist and thanked the Earth Mother profusely for reminding her. "Okay, thank you again!"

"Sure thing! Be careful out there!" Padfoot Waitress nodded politely, and Priestess energetically pattered out of the tavern. She was soon back in her room, confirming the full contents of her Adventurer's Toolkit were present and otherwise preparing her cargo.

She always had her hands full with all the things that had to be done before an adventure. They were heading out to help people in trouble, and it behooved them to take it seriously. After all, this would be her first trip to

"Cold makes a body hungry. Or...uh, does that not happen to humans?"

"I guess I don't know? But we do get hungry one way or another." Priestess responded to the question with an ambiguous tilt of her head. She wasn't exactly sure how much sharper padfoot senses were than humans'.

But, well...

As long as they didn't load you down completely, provisions could only help. You might be able to conserve by hunting game while on the road, but where food was concerned, it was better safe than sorry.

"Something we can even eat frozen... There probably isn't anything like that, is there?"

"If there is, I don't know about it!" Padfoot Waitress chortled. "Couldja just store some food in your clothes to keep it warm?"

"That's true." Priestess nodded, then pulled some coins out of her purse one at a time, placing them on the round table.

"Pleasure doing business!" Priestess returned the friendly smile Padfoot Waitress gave her, then collected the provisions and nodded in satisfaction.

I should probably go buy a cape or something as well.

Putting on too many layers would make it hard to move, but she could at least do with some simple outerwear. Another glance in her purse confirmed she had a few coins to spare...

Above all, the thought of Padfoot Waitress's fuzzy

"Oh, well," Priestess said, blinking. "Ummm..."

"Hmm?"

Priestess found herself a bit overwhelmed by Padfoot Waitress, who was leaning toward her, as she groped for the words to explain.

Isn't this exactly the "asking around" *you said you weren't going to do?*

This flicker of doubt briefly assailed Priestess, but she pushed it away and said, in a single breath, "I'm going to the snowy mountain in winter so I was wondering if you could get some provisions ready for me, just whatever you think would be best!"

"Sure thing!" Padfoot Waitress didn't appear fazed at all as she turned around and jogged over to a shelf. She reached out with the padded, furry hand that was her race's namesake. "You'll be needing something that stays edible even if it freezes, then!"

"Yes, thank you." Yes, that was it. Surely. That had to be right. Priestess nodded to herself. "If you have some things like that..."

"Then let me give you a few of my choice vittles!" Padfoot Waitress grabbed one preserved food after another, piling them up on an empty table. Dried fruits and berries, hard-cooked bread. Priestess realized none of it seemed that different from what she would take on any adventure. If anything...

"Walnuts... Dried meat... I feel like I see a lot of oily things..."

"Ummm... Well, for starters..."

Cold-weather gear would be...quick enough to secure—or so she thought.

"If I can't find any, I might really regret it once I'm there."

Though she had no idea how accurate her assumptions were, it would probably be best to immediately begin assembling what she needed. And once she started thinking that way, she realized the same might be true for provisions and the like...

With these thoughts running through her head, Priestess briskly walked into the tavern adjoining the Guild. Perhaps because she had been constantly going off on adventures, she wasn't used to the place yet and still hadn't caught the rhythm of when the tavern would be full of other adventurers and when it was more likely to be empty. When she poked her head inside, the place seemed fairly quiet, with only a few seats taken by customers.

"Um, excuse me..."

"Be right with you!" came the effusive answer from Padfoot Waitress, who suddenly popped into view. Her curvy body was barely contained by her waitress's uniform, and her tail wagged from under a short skirt as she jogged over.

I've heard lots of restaurants are staffed by padfoots...

It made a certain kind of sense, Priestess thought. They were sweet-looking and put customers at ease.

"Whatcha want?"

harvest festival, but after that had come...a goblin hunt.

"...Hrm."

She couldn't help but feel this was a little...*unbalanced*.

Though she had also been on the occasional adventure with High Elf Archer and the others...

It hasn't all been goblin hunting, has it...?

No. Surely not. Surely.

Priestess took a moment to nod to herself, then pointedly redirected her thoughts once she had a firmer grip on her emotions.

Yes, the real issue at hand was this snowy mountain. She'd be marching through snow. So what would she need?

"Hmm..."

Maybe she should just start asking people for their opinions... No, that didn't seem quite right.

True, you had to ask people for advice sometimes. Nobody started with the knowledge or experience they needed, and it was hard to put it into practice even once you had it. You could get all your calculations right, and your timing, and everything about the situation, and still run into trouble. Priestess had learned that much during her short time adventuring.

So maybe I could do just a little by myself.

She could try to apply what she had learned. Priestess clenched her fists, determined to show she had grown.

§

Interlude:

Of Her First Departure

– by Kumo Kagyu

"Hmm... What should I do...?"

These were the first words out of Priestess's mouth when she received her new quest.

She had found herself a little space in the corner of the Adventurers Guild away from the reception desk, where none of her companions or other adventurers were around to disturb her. It was, in fact, the perfect place to quietly, almost inadvertently mutter to herself. Words inexorably tumbled from her lips, though she knew she could find the will to clam up if Goblin Slayer happened to be nearby.

"A snowy mountain? What do I need for that...?"

She had no idea. That was the problem.

It had been about a year since she became an adventurer. She tried to think of all the places she had been and the things she had done in that time, counting them off on her fingers as she went.

In spring, a goblin hunt. Then a goblin hunt. A goblin hunt in some old ruins, then another goblin hunt.

In summer, a goblin hunt. Then a goblin hunt in the water town. Then the battle with the Giant Eyeball, followed by a goblin hunt.

In fall, she had been busy with preparations for the

GOBLIN SLAYER 9

Original Story: Kumo Kagyu
Art: Kousuke Kurose
Character Design: Noboru Kannatuki

Translation: Kevin Steinbach ✣ Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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